SATURDAY
July 8, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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Vol.54 • No.161

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EXCISE POLICY CASE

ED attaches assets worth ₹52.24 crore

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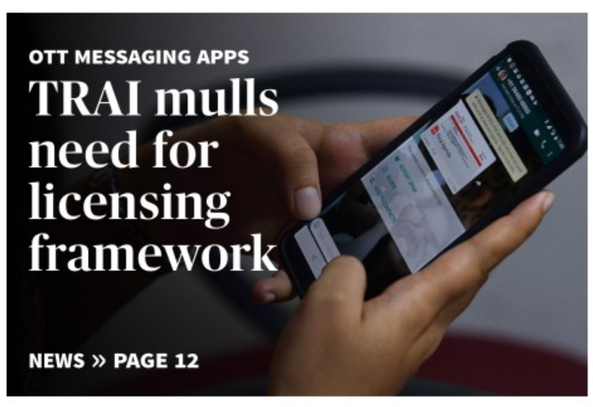

OTT MESSAGING APPS

TRAI mulls need for licensing framework

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CALL FOR CAUTION

U.S. to send cluster bombs to aid Ukraine

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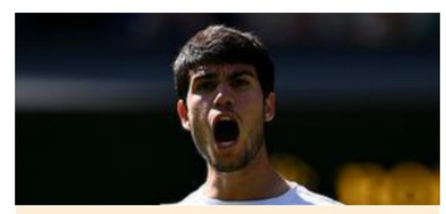
UNIFORM CIVIL CODE

Infinite variety of custom

The PM's push for UCC has led to alarm among tribal communities

GROUND ZERO » PAGE 9



EASILY DONE

Alcaraz sweeps into the third round

SPORT » PAGE 15

Siddaramaiah presents 'guarantee Budget' with promise of welfare for all

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

For promoting inclusive development, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday presented a Budget with focus on welfare for the benefit of the common man by relaunching several discontinued schemes and offering interest-subsidy loans for people at the margins.

Backed by 21% growth in GST, Mr. Siddaramaiah in his 14th Budget allocated ₹35,410 crore for implementing what he called "guarantee budget" that seeks to implement the five guarantees promised to the electorate during Assembly elections, which would benefit 1.3 crore families. For mobilising resources for funding the guarantees, the Budget proposed to hike excise duty on Indian Made Liquor by 20% in all 18 slabs and beer by 10%.

It proposes to revise the guidance value of all immovable properties, and set higher targets for mobilisation of revenue for all income-generating departments. He proposed to increase the borrowings from ₹72,090 crore in 2022-23 to ₹86,068 crore, an increase of ₹13,979 crore, a 19% rise. The size of the Budget is up from ₹2,65,720 crore in 2022-23 to ₹3,27,747 crore in 2023-24, an increase of ₹62,027 crore, a 23% growth.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah presenting the State Budget in the Legislative Assembly on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Budget at a glance

Revenue receipts	₹2,38,410 crore
Gross borrowings	₹86,068 crore
Total receipts	₹3,24,478 crore
Total expenditure	₹3,27,747 crore
Revenue expenditure	₹2,50,933 crore
Capital expenditure	₹54,374 crore
Loan repayment	₹22,441 crore
Revenue deficit	₹12,523 crore

Fiscal deficit ₹66,646 crore — 2.6% of GSDP

Total outstanding liabilities ₹5,71,665 crore — 22.3% of GSDP

> This is a 'guarantee Budget'. Our endeavour is to share the fruits of development with the poor, the oppressed, and the weaker sections. We have implemented 76 promises made in our poll manifesto.
>
> **SIDDARAMAIAH,** Chief Minister

It is a Budget with a revenue deficit of ₹12,523 core and will come into effect from August 1.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said the government would make efforts to augment the State economy to one trillion-dollar economy by boosting the State's GSDP from 13% to 17% by expanding the scope of all major sectors. By finding fault in "double engine" government's policies, including GST, devolution of funds, MGNREGA, and new education policy (NEP), in more than 40 references of the Budget, the Chief Minister said an effort would be made to provide the "Karnataka model of development" for ensuring "equal life for all, and equal share for all."

Blames Centre

He took digs at the Narendra Modi-led government and said the Central government was yet to release ₹1,554 crore to the State under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. This resulted in delay of payment for 8.63 lakh labourers.

Predictably, the budgetary allocations have been increased for welfare schemes meant for Scheduled Caste and Tribes, OBCs, farmers and women who have suffered by inflation, COVID-19 pandemic, and unemployment.

Short-term interest free loans have been increased to ₹5 lakh for farmers and ₹3 lakh for fishermen. Under the interest rate subsidy loans, the Budget proposed 4% interest subsidy up to ₹20 lakh to farmers' produce organisations, 7% up to ₹20 lakh to farmers, and interest-free loan up to ₹20 lakh for students pursuing higher education abroad, among others.

CONTINUED ON
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RELATED REPORTS ON
» PAGES 3, 4, 5 & 6

Defamation case: Gujarat HC refuses relief to Rahul

The court declines to stay the conviction of the Congress leader saying he used PM's name to 'add sensation' and 'affect' the outcome of the 2019 general election; it calls for 'purity in politics'

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

In a setback to former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, the Gujarat High Court on Friday declined to stay his conviction in a criminal defamation case in which he was sentenced to two years in jail by a Surat court.

The High Court noted that the Congress leader used Prime Minister Narendra Modi's name in his speech at a poll rally to "add sensation" and with an intention to "affect the result" of the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

"The accused did not stop there but imputed that '*saare choro ke naam Modi hi kyu hai* (why do all thieves have the Modi surname in common)'. Thus, the present case would certainly fall within the category of seriousness of the offence," the order said.

The court also underlined that he faced as many as 10 criminal cases across the country, including one filed by the grandson of V.D. Savarkar, and held that "it is now the need of the hour to have purity in politics".

The case relates to Mr. Gandhi's remarks while campaigning for the 2019 Lok Sabha election in Karnataka.

The High Court upheld the Surat Sessions Court's ruling in which Mr. Gandhi's plea seeking a stay on his conviction was rejected. The Surat court's ruling led to his disqualification as a member of the Lok Sabha.

Justice Hemant Prachchhak, who dismissed the plea, held that the trial court's sentence of a two-year jail term was "just, proper and legal". He noted that a stay on a conviction is not the rule, but an exception reserved for rare cases only, and held that the present case did not fall into that category.

"He [Mr. Gandhi] was trying to stay the conviction on absolutely non-existent grounds. It is a well-settled principle of law that staying of conviction is not a rule, but an exception, resorted only in rare cases. Disqualification is not only limited to MPs, MLAs. Moreover, as many as 10 criminal cases are pending against the applicant," the HC noted in the judgement.

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Show of support: Congress MLAs and supporters protesting at the Gandhi statue at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

'Disappointed' Congress says it will move SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday announced that it will move the Supreme Court after the Gujarat High Court refused to stay Rahul Gandhi's conviction in the Modi surname case and noted that no court had handed out the maximum punishment under defamation law in the 162-year history of the Indian Penal Code.

The party said that the HC order was "disappointing" but not "unexpected". Alleging that the repeated cases against Mr. Gandhi by BJP functionaries were an attempt to "throttle" his voice, the party promised to "redouble its resolve to fight the battle both legally and politically".

"Why is that all cases filed against @RahulGandhi are by members of the BJP ecosystem?" Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh tweeted.

CONTINUED ON
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NEARBY

Move to create industry-ready engineers

BENGALURU
To create industry-ready engineers, the Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) has decided to adopt industrial content in all engineering streams from the academic year 2023-24. » Page 2

Rain toll touches 9 in DK, Udupi districts

MANGALURU
The death toll in rain-related incidents in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts of Karnataka in a week rose to nine on Friday. » Page 2

Crane collapses at metro construction site

BENGALURU
A crane that was carrying steel rods for piling work of Namma Metro near Silk Board junction toppled on its side causing traffic snarls on the service road from HSR Layout and BTM Layout towards Madiwala on Friday. No injuries were reported. » Page 3

Field day

Child's play: A young girl, with a sibling in hand and a dog in tow, walks the edge of a field on the outskirts of Guwahati on Friday. RITU RAJ KONWAR

BJP chooses leaders to be in charge of Assembly elections in four States

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president J.P. Nadda on Friday appointed Union Ministers Pralhad Joshi, Bhupendra Yadav and Mansukh Mandaviya as the party's poll in-charge for the upcoming Assembly elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh (M.P.) and Chhattisgarh respectively.

Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw has been appointed co-in-charge for the polls in M.P. along with Mr. Yadav.

In Rajasthan, former Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel and Haryana BJP leader Kuldeep Bishnoi have been appointed co-in-charges.

In Chhattisgarh, BJP in-charge for the State Om Mathur will also be in charge alongside Mr. Mandaviya.

In Telangana, former Minister Prakash Javadekar and BJP general secretary Sunil Bansal have been appointed as poll in-charges.

Key appointments

With this, the BJP has completed important organisational appointments for the upcoming polls. Assembly polls in all four States are due at the end of the year.

Balasore train collision: CBI arrests three officials

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday arrested two senior section engineers (signal) and a technician on the charge of culpable homicide not amounting to murder and destruction of evidence in connection with the triple train collision in Odisha's Balasore on June 2.

According to the agency, those arrested are Arun Kumar Mahanta, a senior section engineer in Balasore; Mohammed Amir Khan, a senior section engineer in Soro; and technician Pappu Kumar, who worked in Balasore.

After the incident, the accused persons had attempted to destroy evidence to evade detection of their role.

After taking over the investigation, a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) team visited the collision site along with forensic experts to gather evidence.

It also recorded statements of the officials concerned and examined the signalling system to ascertain whether there was any foul play, technical glitch or human error, which led to the collision.

CONTINUED ON
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Central forces pour in as Bengal gets set to vote today

Full swing: Polling officials carrying election material on the way to their assigned booths in South 24 Parganas. PTI

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

West Bengal is set to go to polls on Saturday amid high security to elect 73,887 panchayat representatives, in a high-stakes contest being seen as a critical event in the run-up to the 2024 general election.

A Congress worker in Murshidabad died on the eve of the voting, becoming the 18th victim of political violence since the poll notification was issued on June 8.

Though 822 companies of Central forces were set to be deployed, only 585 had arrived in the State by Friday afternoon.

About 5.67 crore electors are eligible to exercise their franchise in the elections for 63,229 seats at the gram panchayats, 9,730 panchayat samiti seats and 928 zilla parishad seats.

The main contest is expected to be between the ruling Trinamool Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), but the Left Front and the Congress are also trying to make a turnaround in the rural polls. The Trinamool has raised as a key issue the Centre's denial of funds to the State, including for the flagship rural employment guarantee scheme MGNREGA. The Opposition has raised the issue of corruption in rural bodies in its campaigns.

The Trinamool Congress is contesting 72,000 seats, while the BJP has fielded candidates for about 46,000 seats.

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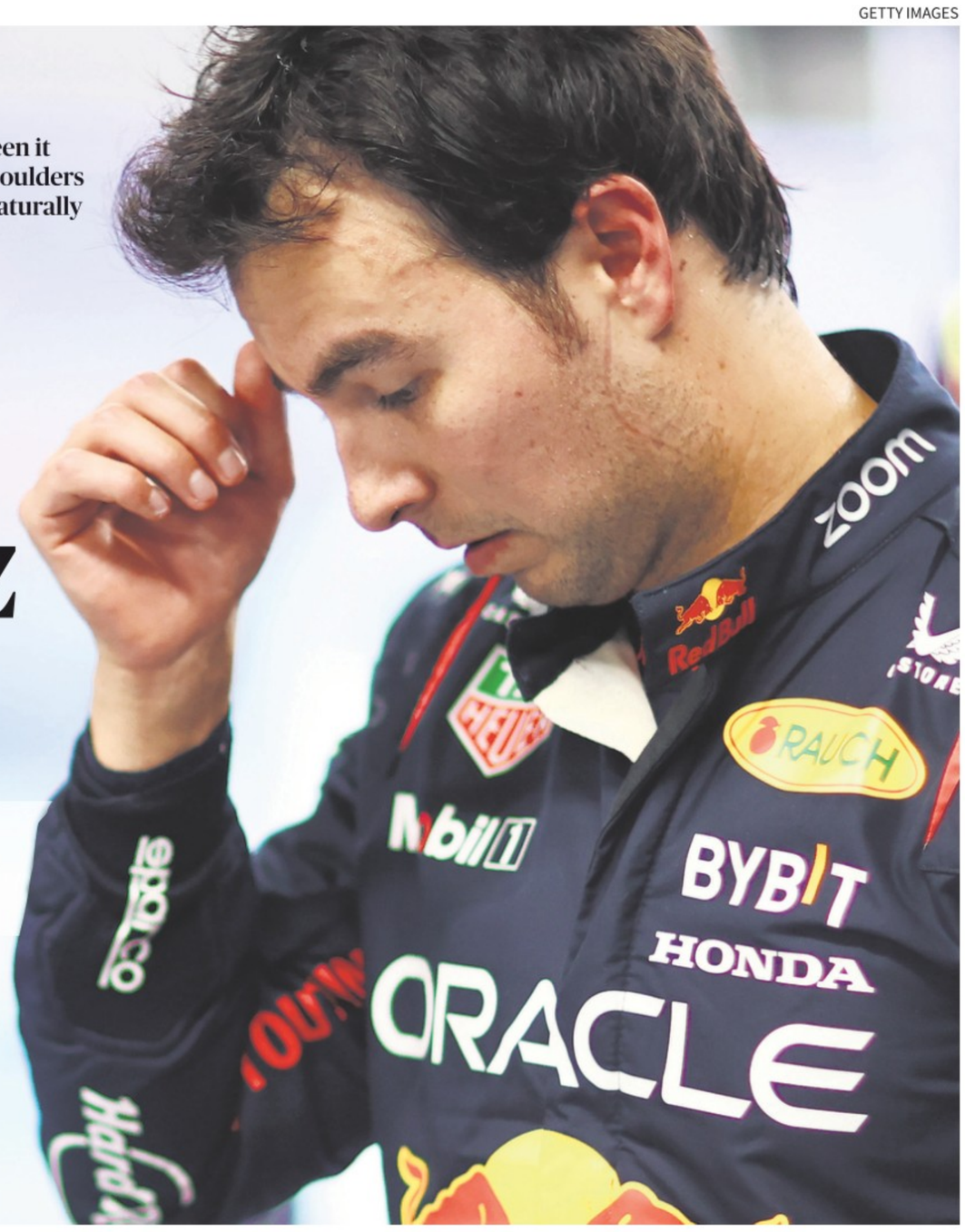
GETTY IMAGES

> I haven't lost it, you know, you don't go from winning races to all of a sudden being a very bad driver. I think people in the sport forget the amount of detail we are operating at
>
> **SERGIO PEREZ**
> No. 2 in the driver standings

> We know what he's capable of, we've seen it earlier in the year. If he just frees his shoulders up a bit it will just come to him more naturally
>
> **CHRISTIAN HORNER**
> Red Bull team principal

Is Red Bull's patience with Perez wearing thin?

After a strong start to the season when he looked like a genuine threat to teammate Max Verstappen, the Mexican driver buckled under pressure, making unforced errors. The slide has raised questions about his future with the Bulls – questions he must now answer on the track



Reuters
Associated Press

Sergio Perez was enjoying life in Red Bull livery after claiming the third pole of his career at this season's Miami Grand Prix, the fifth round of the 2023 Formula One world championship. "Checo! Checo! Checo!" the crowd chanted while waving Mexican flags even as Perez smiled in satisfaction with how his season was shaping up.

He trailed teammate Max Verstappen by just six points in the standings, with the two drivers having split the first four races in a Red Bull sweep. Team boss Christian Horner, moreover, had given his approval for Perez to race for both the win and the championship. Since joining Red Bull in 2021, Perez had been the clear number two, playing the part of consummate team-man dutifully following orders, but Horner's words were a sign that things were different this season.

The Mexican knew that the Miami GP offered him the rare opportunity to lead the drivers' championship for the first time and simultaneously rattle Verstappen's cage. A third win in five races would have lifted the 33-year-old above his already illustrious teammate, eight years his junior, and been quite a statement of intent.

Perez was not the only one aware of the significance of his position. Experts and F1 neutrals, who experienced a tinge of dismay when they saw how dominant Red Bull was early in the season, were hoping they could at least watch an intra-team title fight – not another Verstappen victory parade, which was the case in 2022.

> I don't think Perez is [in danger] for this year but at the end of the year who knows?
>
> **JENSON BUTTON**
> Former world champion

"If he [Perez] can pull out a win [in Miami], that would be a massive deal for him," said former world champion Jenson Button. "I think that will give him big confidence for the season. We haven't seen him throughout a season be as competitive as Max... Checo has been a lot more up and down. But if he can do it in Miami, I think he has a chance to fight for the championship."

Campaign unravels

But Perez could not convert his pole into a victory in Miami, and while finishing second to Verstappen did not damage his chances, worse was to follow. His campaign unravelled as he finished 16th, fourth and sixth in the next three races, committing the sort of unforced errors that title contenders simply cannot afford. The most dramatic of them came during qualifying in Monaco, a race he won last year. Regarded as one of F1's best drivers on street circuits, he lost control of the rear, thudded into the barriers and had to start the race last.

Such mistakes in qualifying meant he was trying to limit his losses in the race, even as Verstappen strung victories together with masterful ease.

When Perez failed to qualify in the top 10 for the fourth race in a row in Austria – he had laps deleted for exceeding track limits – the questions about his future in Red Bull began to grow more strident.

It did not help that Red Bull motorsport advisor Helmut Marko continued to be critical of Perez's driving in public, comparing it unfavourably with Verstappen's. When he confirmed that Daniel Ricciardo, the team's reserve driver, would take the wheel of the RB19 for tyre testing after this weekend's British GP and said the team was looking to "keep options open" as a part of "succession" planning, the rumour mill went into overdrive.

One of the theories was that Ricciardo, who previously drove for Red Bull (2014-18), would take a seat with sister outfit AlphaTauri, replacing underperforming Nick de Vries. Such a move would allow the Australian to remove some competitive rust and make a seamless transition back into the Red Bull seat if Perez were to be dumped.

With speculation mounting, Horner was forced to throw his weight behind Perez. "Everybody's fully behind him," Horner told Sky Sports, replying to a query on possible driver changes. "Any talk of replacing Checo is wide of the mark." While Perez will have welcomed the backing, he will also know that Red Bull has not always shown patience with floundering drivers.

Horner diagnosed Perez's mistakes as a consequence of the pressure the Mexican was piling on himself. Horner urged his driver "to stop thinking about the championship and just drive", saying "if he just frees his shoulders up a bit, it will just come to him more naturally".

But it is difficult not to feel the weight of constantly being judged against Verstappen's elite standards, something both Horner and Perez have spoken about.

"There is not a driver out there today, I believe, that would have beaten Max in that car today," Horner said at the Spanish GP. "So he [Perez] is up against a driver that is at the top of his form. Mentally it's a really tough thing to deal with."

"It is not easy being Max's teammate because he is winning all the time," Perez said. "We have seen it in the past, it is not always easy for a teammate to survive. But I believe in myself."

Perez's weekend in Austria did improve after his nightmare in qualifying. He qualified second in the sprint shootout and, after near-miss moments with Verstappen, finished second in the 24-lap 100km sprint race. On race day, he worked his way up from 15th to third, his first podium finish since Miami. It was a welcome boost for Perez after the dramatic dip in performance.

Is the gloom lifting?

"I haven't lost it, you know, you don't go from winning races to all of a sudden being a very bad driver," Perez said. "I think people in the sport forget the amount of detail we are operating at. When you don't have everything together, then you see a big difference. But yes, I know that I've had a rough period. Many drivers have had that but it seems to be even bigger when a Red Bull driver has it. I hope we are back now and we can keep some consistency."

Perez trails Verstappen by 81 points going into Silverstone this weekend. With 13 rounds remaining, he isn't out of the title picture, given how quickly and drastically things can change in motorsport. But Perez, as Horner advised, would do well not to think of the championship.

Winning his third race of the season – something he has never previously managed – would be a good short-term goal to start with. There is one silver lining in competing against Verstappen as a teammate: when you beat him, you prove your worth. If Perez can manage it a few more times this season, the questions about his future with Red Bull will vanish.

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Carlos Alcaraz	20	7,675	18
2	Novak Djokovic	36	7,595	16
3	Daniil Medvedev	27	5,890	22
4	Casper Ruud	24	4,960	23
5	Stefanos Tsitsipas	24	4,670	21
6	Holger Rune	20	4,510	25
7	Andrey Rublev	25	4,255	25
8	Jannik Sinner	21	3,345	22
9	Taylor Fritz	25	3,310	24
10	Frances Tiafoe	25	3,085	22
11	Karen Khachanov	27	3,035	20
12	Felix Auger-Aliassime	22	2,760	22
13	Cameron Norrie	27	2,610	22
14	Borna Coric	26	2,305	21
15	Tommy Paul	26	2,250	24

Top Indians ▸

Sumit Nagal
Rank 225 ▼ 3 spots

Mukund Sasikumar
Rank 385 ▼ 2 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Iga Swiatek	22	8,990	18
2	Aryna Sabalenka	25	8,066	17
3	Elena Rybakina	24	5,090	20
4	Jessica Pegula	29	4,995	18
5	Caroline Garcia	29	4,845	25
6	Ons Jabeur	28	3,547	17
7	Coco Gauff	19	3,435	19
8	Maria Sakkari	27	3,301	22
9	Petra Kvitova	33	3,101	15
10	Daria Kasatkina	26	2,935	25
11	Barbora Krejcikova	27	2,830	22
12	Veronika Kudermetova	26	2,600	22
13	Beatriz Haddad Maia	27	2,560	23
14	Belinda Bencic	26	2,380	18
15	Liudmila Samsonova	24	2,360	21

Top Indians ▸

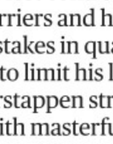
Ankita Raina
Rank 197 ▲ No change

Karman Thandi
Rank 233 ▲ 2 spots

F1 Drivers' standings

#	Driver	Team	Points	Wins
1	Max Verstappen	Red Bull	229	7
2	Sergio Perez	Red Bull	148	2
3	Fernando Alonso	Aston Martin	131	0
4	Lewis Hamilton	Mercedes	106	0
5	Carlos Sainz	Ferrari	82	0
6	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari	72	0
7	George Russell	Mercedes	72	0
8	Lance Stroll	Aston Martin	44	0
9	Esteban Ocon	Alpine	31	0
10	Lando Norris	McLaren	24	0
11	Pierre Gasly	Alpine	16	0
12	Nico Hulkenberg	Haas	9	0
13	Alex Albon	Williams	7	0
14	Oscar Piastri	McLaren	5	0
15	Valtteri Bottas	Alfa Romeo	5	0
16	Zhou Guanyu	Alfa Romeo	4	0
17	Yuki Tsunoda	AlphaTauri	2	0
18	Kevin Magnussen	Haas	2	0
19	Logan Sargeant	Williams	0	0
20	Nyck de Vries	AlphaTauri	0	0

Max Verstappen



Sergio Perez

F1 Constructors' standings

Pos	Team	Points	Wins
1	Red Bull	377	9
2	Mercedes	178	0
3	Aston Martin	175	0
4	Ferrari	154	0
5	Alpine	47	0
6	McLaren	29	0
7	Haas	11	0
8	Alfa Romeo	9	0
9	Williams	7	0
10	AlphaTauri	2	0

Badminton Men's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	Viktor Axelsen	101,205	12
2	Anthony Sinisuka Ginting	89,811	16
3	Kodai Naraoka	77,015	20
4	Kunlavut Vitidsarn	74,898	14
5	Shi Yu Qi	70,554	18
6	Loh Kean Yew	69,882	19
7	Chou Tien Chen	68,627	20
8	Prannoy H. S.	67,677	18
9	Jonatan Christie	67,541	15
10	Li Shi Feng	65,538	19
11	Kenta Nishimoto	57,947	19
12	Lu Guang Zu	54,790	18
13	Ng Ka Long Angus	54,522	19
14	Kanta Tsuneyama	54,271	18
15	Anders Antonsen	54,040	13

Top Indians ▸

Prannoy H. S.
Rank 8

Lakshya Sen
Rank 19

Badminton Women's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	Akane Yamaguchi	103,717	14
2	An Se Young	102,264	14
3	Chen Yu Fei	93,396	13
4	Tai Tzu Ying	88,486	13
5	He Bing Jiao	79,974	16
6	Carolina Marin	76,890	17
7	Gregoria Mariska Tunjung	63,151	20
8	Ratchanok Intanon	62,043	15
9	Han Yue	61,720	19
10	Wang Zhi Yi	59,430	16
11	Pornpawee Chochuwong	57,219	19
12	Busanan Ongbamrungphan	53,444	14
13	Michelle Li	52,711	18
14	Beiwen Zhang	51,895	20
15	P.V. Sindhu	51,070	13

Top Indians ▸

P.V. Sindhu
Rank 15

Saina Nehwal
Rank 30

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Kane Williamson	883	919
2	Steve Smith	882	947
3	Marnus Labuschagne	873	937
4	Travis Head	872	884
5	Joe Root	866	923
6	Babar Azam	862	882
7	Usman Khawaja	847	847
8	Daryl Mitchell	792	800
9	Dimuth Karunaratne	780	783
10	Rishabh Pant	758	801

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	R. Ashwin	860	904
2	Pat Cummins	826	914
3	Kagiso Rabada	825	902
4	James Anderson	813	903
5	Ollie Robinson	803	820
6	Shaheen Afridi	787	836
7	Nathan Lyon	783	799
8	Jasprit Bumrah	772	835
9	Ravindra Jadeja	765	899
9	Stuart Broad	764	880

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Babar Azam	886	898
2	Rassie van der Dussen	777	796
3	Fakhar Zaman	755	784
4	Imam-ul-Haq	745	815
5	Shubman Gill	738	738
6	Harry Tector	726	726
6	David Warner	726	880
8	Virat Kohli	719	911
9	Quinton de Kock	718	813
10	Rohit Sharma	707	885

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Josh Hazlewood	705	733
2	Mohammed Siraj	691	736
3	Mitchell Starc	686	783
4	Matt Henry	667	691
5	Trent Boult	660	775
6	Adam Zampa	652	655
7	Rashid Khan	640	806
8	Shaheen Afridi	630	688
8	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	630	712
10	Mohammad Nabi	626	657

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Suryakumar Yadav	906	910
2	Mohammad Rizwan	811	875
3	Babar Azam	756	896
4	Aiden Markram	748	796
5	Rilee Rossouw	724	724
6	Muhammad Waseem	716	716
7	Devon Conway	709	831
8	Dawid Malan	705	915
9	Aaron Finch	680	900
10	Jos Buttler	670	674

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	710	816
2	Fazalhaq Farooqi	692	692
3	Josh Hazlewood	690	806
4	Wanindu Hasaranga	686	797
5	Maheesh Theekshana	684	684
5	Adil Rashid	684	746
7	Adam Zampa	678	743
8	Sam Curran	673	688
9	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	668	745
10	Anrich Nortje	667	695

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank
इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

Zonal Office, 4th Floor, East Wing
Raheja Towers, No. 26, 27,
M G Road, BANGALORE - 560 001
PH: 080-22958899

Notice Inviting Offers

Indian Bank, Zonal Office, Bengaluru invites sealed offers from owners of commercial premises willing to offer on lease basis office premises at Mahadevapura-560048, Manyata Tech Park-560045 and Whitefield-560066 locations measuring 1200 to 1400 sq.ft Carpet Area preferably in ground floor with parking facility, for a lease period of 10-15 years for opening branches with ATM facility preferably on Main Road in the following locations / Center.

(1) Whitefield (2) Mahadevapura (3) Manyata Business Park

For eligibility criteria, application form, and other details, please refer to website **http://www.indianbank.in/tender.php**

Last date: 28.07.2023 **Sd/- ZONAL MANAGER**

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಶಿರಸಿ (ಉ.ಕ.)
CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, SIRSI (UK)
Ph: 08384-226338 Website: www.sirsicity.mrc.gov.in
E-mail: comm_srs @ yahoo.com
No. CMC/SBM 2.0/LEGACY-TENDER/2023-24/1491 Dated: 06-07-2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Municipal Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Sirsi invites tender in Two cover system using **KW-4** document from Class-I PWD contractors or registered Firm/Agencies for Processing and Disposal of Legacy Waste at Landfill Site of City Municipal Council Sirsi as per Central Pollution Board guidelines under Swachcha Bharat Mission 2.0 in City Municipal Corporation limit as detailed below:

Description of Work: (1) **DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT1025** Processing and Disposal of Legacy waste at Survey No 150A1 &150A2 of Sirsi Village Sirsi Hobali Of City municipal council Sirsi as per Central Pollution Board Guidelines, Amount put to tender: **Rs. 703.85 lakhs,** EMD Amount: **Rs. 10.56 lakhs**, Period of Execution (Excluding Monsoon Period): **9.88 Months**, Class of Contractors: **As per Bid Document.** Interested contractors or registered Firm/Agencies shall register on the KPPP Platform to participate in this tender. Contractors or registered Firm/Agencies can download the tender documents from the KPPP Platform (**http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**). Tender documents shall be submitted electronically at **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** EMD and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically.

Calendar of Events and other information are as follows: (1) Pre-Bid meeting date and time for Bidders: **20.07.2023 11.00 Hours** (2) Last Date and Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications: **28.07.2023 17:00 Hours** (3) Last Date and Time Receipt to Tenders: **07.08.2023 17:30 Hours** (4) Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bid: **09.08.2023 11:00 Hours** (5) Date and Time for Opening of Financial Bid: **16.08.2023 11:00 Hours** Any Changes in the tender conditions and postponement of calendar of events (if any) is only through KPPP Portal and will not be published in any news papers.

Sd/- Municipal Commissioner,
City Municipal Council, Sirsi (U.K)

Sd/- Administrator,
CMC Sirsi and Deputy Commissioner,
Uttarkannada (Karwar)

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/95/23-24 dt. 06.07.23

Government of Karnataka
Gadag Betegeri Municipal Council
District: Gadag State: Karnataka Ph. No.: 08372-259932
E-mail: itstaff.ulb.gadag@gmail.com
No.GBCMC/T.S/E.D/HighMasts /577/2023-24 Dt: 06-07-2023

Short Term Tender Notification
(Only Through KPP Portal)

Tender is invited as per Karnataka Transparency in public Procurement Act 1999-2000 subject to Standard Tender Document Rules through e-procurement portal in two cover system from registered 1st class electrical contractors for About the work of Relising & Refixing Of High mast pole and Replace Of Rope Wire & UG Cable and Motors In high mask. @ Gadag-Betegeri city municipal council limits of the year 2022-23 (under Untied Grant). Indent No- DMA/ 2023-24/EL/WORK_INDENT 1096 Therefore tender can be submitted through e-procurement portal website. www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and for further details the website of this office www.gadag-betagericity.gov.in can be viewed.

More Details Contact e-procurement portal Helpline No:+91-8046010000,+91 68948777.

Sd/-
(Smt Usha Mahesh Dasar)
Prisident
CMC, Gadag-Betageri

Sd/-
(Ramesh S Sunagar)K.M.A.S
Municipal Commissioner
CMC, Gadag-Betageri

DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/51/2023-24

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Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi
Ref. VTU/BGM/SAP/CW5/T-623/2023-24/1823/1 dtd.06-07-2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Registrar, VTU, Belagavi, invites e-tenders (two cover systems) for the following works through e-procurement tendring mode. Work Name: Tender for Stitching and Supply of Uniforms to the Attenders (Men and Women) , Drivers, Electrician, Plumbers and Nurse (Male and Female) of VTU, Belagavi. Amount put to tender : Rs.6,91,250/- EMD Rs.17,300/-.Last date for receipt of tender: 20-07-2023 up to 2.30 pm. Date of opening of tender: 21-07-2023 at 04.00 p.m. The details regarding participation in the e-Tendring can be accessed by logging to our VTU website: www.vtu.ac.in and e-procurement portal website: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-140/KSMCA/2023-24

Sd/-Registrar

SRI JAYADEVA INSTITUTE OF CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES & RESEARCH
(Govt. of Karnataka - Reg. Autonomous Institute)
Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560 069.
Ph.: +91-80-22977666/276/433 TELE FAX:080-26534625/477
e-mail: director@jayadevacardiology.com / pstodirectorsjicr@gmail.com

No.: SJICR/2023-24/IND0003 **Date:07-07-2023**

SHORT TERM e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences & Research, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru invites tender for supply of isotopes/generators for the department of Nuclear Cardiology, SJICR, Bengaluru in two bid system from eligible tenderers through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka:

1. The tenderers can download the documents from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **08-07-2023** and the last date for submission of completed tenders through e-portal is **14-07-2023 up to 4:00 PM.**
2. Date of Technical Bid opening: **15-07-2023 at 4:00 PM.**
3. EMD: Rs.5000/-
4. For further details for, please visit our website: **www.jayadevacardiology.com**
5. The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the tender partially or fully without assigning any reason at any stage of processing.

Sd/-
Chief Administrative Officer.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the public that my client **Sri. T. Manjunatha** has lost the Page No. 1 of Original Sale Deed **Doc.No. 20530/2002-03 dated 18.12.2002** while Transit at Kamakshipalya on 03.07.2023 between 11 am to 11.30 am. The said documents were related to Property bearing **No. 135, 2nd Main Road, Kaveripura, Bengaluru-560079** (carved out of Sy. No. 65/2, Kamakshipalya Village, Saneguruvanahalli Dhakale, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk), measuring 300 sq. ft. If any person/s who finds it, is requested to return the same to us at below mention

Subrahmanya Hegde, Advocate,
ANANDA & HEGDE LAW ASSOCIATES,
#76-77, Krishna Krupa Building,
Ground Floor, 2nd Main Road, Sheshadripuram,
Bangalore-20. **Mob: 9060069259.**

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(BELLARY THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

No: KPCL/2023-24/IND0200/CALL 2 Dated: 05.07.2023

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two cover system) (Through e-procurement portal only)

Tender invited in e-Procurement Portal for the work of "Procurement of 9000 KL of HFO through Railway BTPN Wagons for BTPS. EMD: Rs.45,29,606/-. Last date for submission of bids: 19.07.2023. Tender documents may downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in For further details can be had from the office of the Chief Engineer (Fuel Management), BTPS/KPCL, Kudathini, Bellary Dist. Mobile: 94482 90552. Email: ceeconstrn@gmail.com/ cefmbtpskpcl@karnataka.gov.in

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Government of Karnataka
Shivamogga Forest Division, Shivamogga
No.: A6/BGT/Tender/CR-02/2023-24 Date: 05.07.2023

Short-Term e-Tender Notice
(Through e-Procurement Portal)

Short-Term Tenders are invited through e-procurement portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000 for implementing "Monsoon Plantation Forming works" using Cane and RET Type Saplings in forest areas coming in the limits of various forest zones of Shivamogga Forest Division under 4406-Capital Outlay on Forestry & Wildlife – 01 – Forestry – 101 – Forest Conversion, Development and Regeneration – 0 – 02 – Flexi Fund – 139 MW Head of Account for the year 2023-24 from interested Forest contractors registered in Forest Division for the year 2023-24 and having experience in undertaking formation of plantation works using various sizes of saplings grown in the Forest Department and having experience of carrying out preliminary works and of similar type of works as put to Tender and having their own Sapling Nursery in a range of 20 kms from the work site. Last date for submitting tenders for the said works is fixed on 13.07.2023 up to 4.30 PM. For further information this office can be contacted during office hours and details of the tender can be obtained through the official website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Shivamogga Division, Shivamogga

DIPR/smg/No.2607/ksmca/23-24/165

KARNATAKA STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY (KSOU)

MUKTHAGANGOTHRI, MYSURU – 570006, KARNATAKA.

Office Phone No.: 0821-2500981, 2519941 / 43 / 48 / 52, Help Line: 88003 35638 / 86905 44544.
e-mail: techsupport@ksouportal.com Website : www.ksoumysuru.ac.in

ACCREDITED WITH GRADE A+ NAAC
KARNATAKA STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY

Notification No.: KSOU/AB/Adm-1/119/2023-24 **Date: 30-06-2023**

Pursue UGC approved programmes from the comfort of your Homes through KSOU

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Karnataka State Open University is NAAC A+ Accredited, UGC-DEB letter No. 4-1/2023 (DBIII) Date: 16-06-2023 and is the only Public University authorized in Karnataka State to offer Higher Education Programmes, under Open Distance Learning (ODL) Mode.

MBA Programme approved by AICTE vide Notification No: F.No.: South:West/2022-23/ 1-11278340301, Dated: 31.05.2022.

Online-Applications are invited for admission to First Year Programmes of 2023-2024 July Cycle.

Under Graduate (UG) Programmes

- **B.A.** • **B.Com**
- **B.Lib.I.Sc.**
- **B.B.A.**
- **B.S.W.**
- **B.Sc** - Combinations

(• PCM • PMCs • BcBZ • CBZ • BcBMi • BcMiFs • CBMi • CZEs • BcZEs • BME • BBE • CBE • CME • BzE)
[• P-Physics • C-Chemistry • M-Mathematics • Cs-Computer Science • B-Botany • Mi-Microbiology • Bc-Biochemistry • Z-Zoology • Es-Environmental Science • Fs-Food Science & Nutrition]

- **B.Sc** - Information Technology (B.Sc. IT)
- **B.C.A.** - Bachelor of Computer Applications

Post Graduate (PG) Programmes

- **M.A.**
  • Kannada • English • Hindi • Telugu • Education • History • Political Science • Economics • Public Administration • Sociology • Ancient History & Archeology • Journalism & Mass Communication.
- **M.S.W.**
- **M.B.A.** - through online entrance test
  Specializations: • Finance • Marketing • Human Resource • Operations • Tourism • Corporate Law • Information Technology • Hospital and Health Care Management
- **M.Com.**
  with Dual Specializations: • Accounting & Finance/HRM • Marketing Management & HRM/Finance
- **M.C.A.**
- **M.Lib.I.Sc.**
- **M.Sc.**
  • Physics • Chemistry • Mathematics • Bio-Chemistry • Bio-Technology • Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics • Environmental Science • Geography • Microbiology • Psychology • Botany • Zoology • Food and Nutrition Science • Information Technology

Post Graduate Certificate Programmes (1 year)

• English • Communicative English • Journalism & Mass Communication • Kuvempu Sahitya • Financial Management • Human Resource Management • Business Law • Business Administration • Marketing Management • Ambedkar Studies • Nutrition & Dietetics • Information Technology • Computer Application.

Diploma Programmes (10+2 Based) (1 year)

• Kannada • Journalism • Nutrition & Health Education • Information Technology • Computer Applications • Early Childhood Care and Education.

Certificate Programmes (6 Months)

Panchayath Raj • Nutrition & Food • Information Communication Technology

Salient Features

- Sprawling ultra-modern and green campus
- New-age ICT technology enabled teaching facilities
- Highly-qualified Faculty in all the Departments
- Well-equipped Laboratories
- Library and Internet facilities
- Vast Network of Regional Centres and Learner Support Centres
- High quality Self-Learning Materials (SLMs)
- Career Counselling and Placement assistance

Enrolment Information and Procedure

1. Eligibility criteria and Fee Structure are mentioned in the Prospectus, Candidates can download the Prospectus of the respective programs from the University's website. For Admission and all other information, applicants may visit KSOU website www.ksoumysuru.ac.in or they may visit any of KSOU's Learner Support Centres of their choice. For Admission Counseling, applicants may contact any of the Regional Centres/Learner Support Centres of KSOU located in their respective jurisdiction. Candidates can obtain admission through online directly from KSOU Head Office, Mysuru or from nearest Regional Centre of their choice, in-person. Visit "KSOU Online Admission Portal" to fill-up Online Admission Application Form.
   - Admission fee to be paid through online mode only.
   - Identity Cards and available Self-Learning Materials can be collected by the candidates from the Administrative Office of KSOU at Mysuru or from any of the Regional Centres of their choice.
2. SC/ST/OBC category eligible Candidates have to pay full fees and get admitted. They may avail the benefit of fee reimbursement from the Social Welfare Department, through State Scholarship Portal.
   - 15% Fee Discount on Tuition Fee only, for female candidates coming under Below Poverty Line (BPL).
   - 15% Fee Discount on Tuition Fee only, for Defense / Ex-Servicemen candidates.
   - Full Fee exemption for Transgender candidates.
   - Full Fee exemption for Children (Son/Daughter) from COVID-19 deceased family (Father / Mother) Subject to condition of production of the required certificate as per the Government orders from time to time in force, from the concerned Department.
   - Full fee exemption for **Blind candidates** subject to condition of production of the required certificate as per the Government orders from time to time in force, from the concerned Department **(Except B.Ed. and M.B.A.).**
   - **25% Discount on Tuition Fee for Auto / Cab Drivers and their Family (Wife/Children) for UG/PG Degree programs only.**
   - **Staff of the KSRTC/BMTC/NWKRTC/KKRTC will get 25% Discount on Tuition Fee for UG/PG programs.**
3. The details of the Learner Support Centres are available in the KSOU website. Students are requested to contact KSOU authorised Learner Support Centres for counseling purpose.
   - Apprenticeship and Stipend opportunities for ITI holders.

KSOU REGIONAL CENTRES

1. **Mysuru (Head Quarters):** Admission Section, KSOU, Mukthagangotri, Mysuru-570 006, Ph: (0) 0821-2500981, Mob: 77950 77377/94418 21447/ 99012 23043/98458 62927/96114 18726.
2. **Bengaluru-1 Regional Centre:** Satellite Bus Stand Building, 1st Floor, Mysore Road, Bapujinagar, Bengaluru-560 026. Ph: 080-26603664, Mob: 9844965515/ 9844126625.
3. **Bengaluru-2 Regional Centre:** KSOU Women RC, Govt. PU College for Girls, 4th Main, 13th Cross, Near BESCOM Office, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560 003, Ph: 080-23448811, Mob: 97411-97921.
4. **Bengaluru-3 Regional Centre:** Adithya Educational Institutions, No.12, Kogilu Main Rd., Behind Annapurneshwari Temple, Maruthi Nagar, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560 064, Mob: 98805 26439/90195 26439.
5. **Bengaluru-4 Regional Centre:** No. 3/3, LORA Business Academy Building, 2nd Floor, Begur Main Road, Hongasandra, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru-560 068, Ph: 080-23158888, Mob: 94486 68880.
6. **Bengaluru-5 Regional Centre:** Government First Grade College, K.R. Puram Bangalore-560 036. Mob : 87227 88788
7. **Belagavi Regional Centre:** Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Shikshana Mahavidyalaya Campus, Nehru Nagar, Belagavi-590 010. Mob: 90351 43912 / 78925 97159 .
8. **Ballari Regional Centre:** Behind Regional Science Center, Near District Stadium, Nellacheravu Pradesha, Ballari-583 102. Mob: 89702 23247.
9. **Chamarajanagar Regional Centre:** K.H.B. Colony, Ramasamudhra Layout, Near Immanuel Christian Public School, Chamarajanagar-571 313, Mob: 96323 46618.
10. **Chikmagaluru Regional Centre:** Saimandira Road, Madhuvana Layout, Chikmagalur-577 102, Mob: 89040 36090 / 94826 03060.
11. **Davanagere Regional Centre:** J. H. Patel Layout, Behind Shamanur, Naganur Road, Davanagere-577004, Mob: 99864 58055.
12. **Dharwad Regional Centre:** Karnatak University Public School Campus, KCD Road, Opp. LIC Office, Dharwad-580 008, Phone: 0836-2441199, Mob: 99168 94944.
13. **Hassan Regional Centre:** S. M. Krishna Nagar, Arasikere Road, Doddapura (Post), Near Kendriya Vidyalaya, B. T. Koppal, Hassan-573 118, Mob: 81978 18807 / 94826 03060.
14. **Kalburgi Regional Centre:** Institute of Kannada Studies, Gulbarga University Campus, Kalburgi-585 106, Ph. 08472-265868, Mob: 99167 83555.
15. **Karwar Regional Centre:** Old U.S.K.V. Building, 1st Floor, Savitha Circle Main Road, Karwar-581 301, Mob : 99006 67916.
16. **Kolar Regional Centre:** Behind S. P. Office, Near R. L. Jalappa Hospital, Kolar-563 101, Mob : : 86188 21417.
17. **Mandya Regional Centre:** C.S-11 (A), 'E' Block, Vivekananda Nagar Layout, Holalu-Melukote Road, Mandya-571 401, Mob: 97419 90284.
18. **Mangaluru Regional Centre:** Vokkaligara Yane Gowdara Seva Sangha, 3rd Floor, Near Sai Baba Temple, Lady Hill, Mangaluru-575 006, Ph. 0824–2454697, Mob: 99450 58950 / 99721 96692.
19. **Ramanagara Regional Centre:** Shantiniketan Group of Institutions, B. M. Road, Vivekananda Nagar, Ramanagara-562 159, Ph. 080 - 27274443. Mob: 99644 95936.
20. **Shivamogga Regional Centre:** Alkola Circle, Near LIC Office, Sagara Road, Shivamogga-577 201, Phone: 08182-250367, Mob: 91644 67131.
21. **Tumakuru Regional Centre:** CA-07, TUDA Layout, Rajiv Gandhi Nagara, Melekote, Tumakuru-572 105, Ph: 0816-2955580, Mob: 98445 06629.
22. **Udupi Regional Centre:** Old Zilla Panchayath Building, 2nd Floor, Bannanje, Udupi-576 101, Ph. 0820 - 2522247, Mob: 99725 26647.
23. **Bidar Regional Centre:** Government First Grade College, Naubad, Bidar, Ph: 08482-232020, Mob : 99866 96487.
24. **Bagalkote Regional Centre:** Basaveshwara Arts College, BVS Campus, Bagalkote. Ph: 08354-220440, Mob : 70222 22241/ 88610 40975.
25. **Madikeri Regional Centre:** Govt. Primary School Building, D. D. P. I. Office Campus, Madikeri - 571 201, Kodagu Dist., Mobile: 80733 42310 / 91419 38803.
26. **M. M . Hills Regional Centre :** Sri Shantha Mallikarjuna Swamy Higher primary School Campus Salur Mata road, M. M. Hills, Hannur Taluk, Chamarajanagara-571490. Mob : 99807 40048
27. **Chitradurga Regional Centre:** Chitra Don Bosco Degree College, near BCM Hostel, Shanimathma Temple Road, Chelekare Road, Chitradurga, Karnataka 577501. Mob : 74066 12788.
28. **Haveri Regional Centre:** Shri Shivalingeshwara Vidyapeeta, Hukkerimata, Haveri-581110. Mob : 97432 76734.
29. **Chikkaballapura Regional Centre:** Government First Grade (Muncipal) College M.G Road, Chikkaballapura-562101. Mob : 91643 00299.
30. **Raichur Regional Centre:** Government First Grade College, Nijalingappa colony, Lingasur road, Raichur-584101. Mob : 96866 19555.
31. **Yadagiri Regional Centre:** Government Degree College, Chittapura Road, Yadgiri-585202 Mob : 98800 61361.
32. **Bijapura Regional Centre :** Basaveshwara Degree College, Opp. BLED Hospital Road, Bijapura, Mob : 80509 43144.
33. **Koppala Regional Centre :** Mob : 90085 88675.
34. **Gadag Regional Centre :** Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University, Raitha Bhavan, Gadag-582101. Mob : 86189 29376 .

Admissions will commence from	:	**30.06.2023**
Last date for Admission	:	**31.08.2023**

Exams and Classes will be conducted at different Regional Centre / Learning Support Centre

Sd/-, Registrar

VTU to adopt industrial content in all engineering branches

An expert team from Visvesvaraya Technological University visited Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras and studied the new technologies in the curriculum of various engineering streams

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

To create industry-ready engineers, the Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) has decided to adopt industrial content in all engineering streams from the academic year 2023-24. VTU has taken steps to review the engineering curriculum this year and conducted many meetings with various industrialists to get information about industrial requirements in the workforce.

In addition, an expert team from VTU visited Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Madras and studied the new technologies in the curriculum of various engineering streams. Now, the VTU is planning to bring in all these required technologies in the curriculum of all engineering streams from this academic year.

The move comes as industries are facing shortage of required workforce due to lack of skill or knowledge despite technological advancements every day.

Lack of skills

In the technical education field too, it has been acknowledged that engineering colleges are teaching outdated syllabus due to which students are facing the challenge of placement.

S. Vidyashankar, Vice-Chancellor of VTU, told *The Hindu*, "The reviewing of engineering curriculum is going on. We have already introduced industrial content for 1st and 2nd semesters of engineering courses. Now, we have decided to extend this industrial content to the rest of the course. Shortly, we will release new industrial content for all the engineering streams.

"Today, entrepreneurs expect industry-ready engineers. So, we decided to change the curriculum. Students should compulsorily study two subjects on the basis of this content. To provide appropriate skills to students, we also encourage collaboration with industries, " Mr.Vidyashankar added.

Happy students

Shreeya, a 3rd year engineering student in Bengaluru, said, "Adopting industrial content in the curriculum is a long-term demand of industries. There is lot of difference between industrial requirements and the syllabus taught in colleges. After completion of the course, many students have not been employed because of lack of appropriate knowledge and skill required for the industry."

Hoysala vehicles get digital wireless sets

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The control room gets 850 to 900 calls on an average per day.

The Hoysalas patrolling across the city are minimising their response time to a maximum of nine minutes

A total of 241 Hoysala patrolling vehicles which are on the move to work as first responders have been updated with digital wireless sets with clear and interference-free sound.

According to Ravindra K. Gadadi, DCP, Command Centre, this will be helpful in getting clarity in communication without any technical glitches.

According to him, the staff had a problem receiving the signals at times and had no clarity in the messages.

With the digital wireless sets, the staff will get the messages loud and clear and take action accordingly.

The Hoysalas patrolling across the city are also minimising their response time to a maximum of nine minutes.

The control room gets 850 to 900 calls on an average per day, and the staff has to ensure that the Hoysala patrolling in the closest range should reach the spot within the stipulated seven and a half minutes to a maximum of nine minutes.

As they had been experiencing problems in communicating with the analog wireless sets at times, they have been replaced with digital ones for better communication.

It may be recalled that city police commissioner B. Dayananda had patrolled the city in a Hoysala vehicle and interacted with the staff. He made some observations on the improvement of Hoysala patrolling vehicles and staff.

"During my rounds in Hoysala, I found that there were some glitches in communication between Hoysalas and the control room. The problem was rectified. It was decided to move from analog to digital for seamless communication. With the digital wireless system in place, there won't be any blackspots and voice clarity is better," Mr. Dayananda told *The Hindu*.

Toll in rain-related incidents touches 9 in DK, Udupi districts

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The death toll in rain-related incidents in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts of Karnataka in a week rose to nine on Friday.

A woman aged 48, identified as Zareena, died in a landslip at Gumpu Mane in Nandavara village, Bantwal taluk in Dakshina Kannada on Friday.

Thirty-year-old Praveen Acharya, from Pilar village in Kaup taluk, Udupi district, who was driving a motorbike on the Belman-Padubidri main road died when a banyan tree fell on him on Thursday night.

The body of Raju alias Vitala, 45, of Nitte village, Karkala taluk, Udupi district, who had been washed away in a river on July 5, was found on Thursday. With this, five persons in Dakshina Kannada and four persons in Udupi district have died in rain-related incidents this week.

A portion of a hillock crashed down at Gumpu Mane, Nandavara village, Bantwal taluk in Dakshina Kannada on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Orange alert

Meanwhile, schools and pre-university colleges in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts continued to remain closed on the third consecutive day on Friday, as the India Meteorological Department had issued orange alert to the coastal belt.

The Forest Department has banned trekking to Gadai Kallu in Belthangady taluk in Dakshina Kannada from Friday, as steps leading to the top of the hill will become slippery during the monsoon.

While Dakshina Kannada recorded 101.8 mm rain, Udupi district received 91.6 mm rain in 24 hours ending at 8.30 a.m. on Friday.

SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
NETAJI SUBHAS SOUTHERN CENTRE, BENGALURU

1. Sports Authority of India (SAI) is an autonomous organization under the Administrative control of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports with its Head office at Jawaharlal Nehru Sports Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003.

S. No	Name of the post	UR	EWS	OBC	SC	ST	Total
01	Young Professional (P&A)	01	00	00	00	00	01
02	Young Professional (ARM)	01	01	00	00	00	02
03	Junior Consultant (PM)	00	00	01	00	00	01

2. Number of vacancies is indicative and SAI is at liberty to appoint YPs & JCs based on actual workload.
3. The details of recruitment along with application form is available SAI website i.e; **http://sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in** and **http://saibengaluru.com**
4. SAI reserves all the rights to withdraw this advertisement at any time without assigning any reason.

Regional Director I/c. SAI NSSC Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Miss. DIVYANJALI JOSEPHINE LASRADO,** aged about 27 years, [Date of Birth : 19.03.1996], Holder of Indian Passport No. S6275268, D/o. (Late) Mr. Gilbert Lazarado (also known as Gilbert Lasrado) and Mrs. Benedicta Lazarado, (also known as Benedicta Lasrado), residing at No.203, Prabhat Royal 1st Main T. Krishnareddy Layout, Banaswadi Main Road, Bangalore 560043, has lost or misplaced her original 10th Standard Pass Indian Certificate of Secondary Education Examination 2012, of Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, New Delhi, School, Index No.T/2118/022, No. TW 20010205, at St. Francis Xavier Girls High School, Bangalore, of the year 2012, as per Affidavit dated 07.07.2023, hereby enclosed.

Any person having possession of the document shall hand over to the under signed or having any manner of claim in respect of the said property shall lodge the objections within **10 days** from today, failing which it shall be deemed that nobody else has any kind of claim and treated as original.

K.M.A.PERES, Advocate,
No.46/1-1, Wheeler Road,
Bangalore- 560005, Mobile: 9845000414.
E-mail. peresoffice@gmail.com

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1 AT BANGALORE
O.A. No. 461 of 2021

M/s. CANARA BANK
SME BOMMASANDRA BRANCH, B'LORE-99.
Rep. by its Chief Manager V/s. ....APPLICANT
Smt. PRATIBHA
....DEFENDANT

SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANT ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF DRT (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993

Smt. PRATIBHA
Aged about 28 Years, W/o. Sri Sharanabasappa, **Proprietrix M/s. S.P. TECHNOLOGIES @.** # 495/1, Ground Floor, Near Bostic India, Kachanayakanahalli, Bommasandra Indl. Area, B'lore-99.

WHEREAS the above named Applicant has instituted an application U/S 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks & Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against the defendant for recovery of a sum of **Rs. 28,87,938/=** alongwith court costs, and current & future interest and other reliefs from the date of application till date of recovery. You are hereby required **to show cause within 30 days of the service of the summons or on 21st day of November 2023 at 10:30 a.m.** either in person or duly instructed pleader as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take Notice that, in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the 30th day of June 2023 at Bangalore.

Sd/- (REGISTRAR)
Debts Recovery Tribunal-1 for Karnataka
BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bangalore-560 001.

PUBLIC NOTICE

In the matter of Section 13 of the LLP Act, 2008
Read with
Rule 17 of the LLP Rules, 2009.
And
In the matter of **Parkwest LLP** (the LLP) having the LLPIN AAU-2539 and having its registered office at Prestige Falcon Tower No. 19 Brunton Road, Bangalore, Karnataka-560025

NOTICE is hereby given to the General Public that it is proposed to shift the Registered Office of the LLP from the State of Karnataka to the State of Maharashtra i.e. from Prestige Falcon Tower, No. 19, Brunton Road, Bangalore – 560025 to Aaliya Villa Boman House, PL. No. 38, TPS IV, Bandra (West), Off Boman House, Mumbai 400050.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the LLP may send the objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Registrar of Companies, Karnataka, within 21 (twenty one) days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the LLP at its registered office address mentioned above.

For and on behalf of Parkwest LLP
Sd/- MOHAMMED BALWA
Designated Partner
DIPIN: 07939288

Place : Bangalore
Date : 07.07.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public are hereby notified that, my client is proposing to purchase the schedule properties from its respective owners. Terms of the purchase are under negotiation. Meanwhile, we are instructed to carry out due diligence of the schedule properties. Scrutiny of documents to ascertain marketable title and lawful possession of the respective owners, is under process. As part of the due diligence report, this public notice is issued to receive a response from any persons interested in the schedule properties or opposing the sale or otherwise of the schedule properties including any financial institutions, agreement holders, GPA holders or any person claiming any right title, claim, interest or lien over the schedule properties or any portion thereof and/or opposing sale of the schedule properties to my client; or otherwise in any manner whatsoever, are hereby notified to register their objections/claims, if any with supporting authenticated documents, justifying such claims to the under signed within ***"fifteen days"*** from the date of publication hereof for scrutiny and consideration.

If no objections/claims are received with supporting documents as above within the stipulated period, my client will proceed with the completion of the proposed transaction as if there are no objections or objections if any, are deemed to have been waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

All that piece and parcel of land situated at Hulukasavanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District and bounded as follows:

Sl No.	Survey Number	Extent Acre	Extent Guntas	Schedule Boundaries East	West	North	South	Owners
1.	6/4	00	16 ½	Portion of Sy No.6/1	Land in Sy. No. 6/5	Sakalavara Village boundary	Land in Sy Nos.6/2 & 6/3	C. Mahesh & C. Narendra Babu S/o K. V. Chowdappa
2.	6/5	00	16 ½	Land in Sy No.6/4	Sakalavara Village Boundary & Sy No. 37	Sakalavara Village boundary	Land in Sy No. 6/2	Dhanalakshmi K W/o Krishna Reddy
	Total	00	33					

All that piece and parcel of land situated at Sakalavara Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District and bounded as follows:

Sl No.	Survey Number	Extent Acre	Extent Guntas	Schedule Boundaries East	West	North	South	Owners
1.	42/2	00	29	Road	Sy No. 44/7	Remaining land in same survey no	Hulukasava-nahalli village boundary	C. Mahesh S/o. K.V. Chowdappa
2.	44/5	00	39	Land in Sy No. 44/6 & 42/1	Land in Sy No. 44/1 & 45	Land in Sy No. 44/6 & 44/3	Land in Sy No. 44/8	Venkatesh, Jagannath, Lokesh, Muniraju, Srinivash S/o. Ramaiah
3.	44/7	00	32	Land in Sy No. 42/1 & 42/2	Land in Sy No.45	Land in Sy No. 44/8	Hulukasava-nahalli village boundary	Krishna Reddy S/o. Abaiah
4.	44/8	00	32	Land in Sy No. 42/1	Land in Sy No. 45	Land in Sy No. 44/5	Land in Sy No. 44/7	
5.	45	00	10	Land in Sy No. 44/7 & Hulukasa-vanahalli village boundary	Remaining portion of Sy No. 45	Remaining portion of Sy No. 45	Hulukasava nahalli village boundary	Shanthamma W/o. Late Muniramaiah & Kommalamma W/o. Late Munikaverappa
	Total	03	22					

PRAKASH T HEBBAR, Advocate,
HEBBAR LAW FIRM,
No. SF-17, 2nd Floor, Hameed Shah Complex, Cubbonpet Main Road, Bengaluru – 560 002.
e-mail: hebbarlawfirm@gmail.com

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I AT BENGALURU, KARNATAKA

BSNL Building, 4" Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru-560001
OA No. 1250/2022
SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993 BY PAPER PUBLICATION TO DEFENDANT No.1 TO 3.

BETWEEN: Union Bank of India ...Applicant
: AND :
M/s Windstall and another .... Defendant

Whereas, OA No. 1250/2022 was listed before the Hon'ble Registrar on 07.07.2023.

Whereas, in order to recover the debt, the applicant had filed OA Under Section 19 of the Act, OA filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 48,74, 148.98/- together with current and future interest and other reliefs.

In accordance with sub-section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, You, the below mentioned Defendants are directed as under:-

1. You are hereby directed to appear and file written statement before this Hon'ble Tribunal at 10.30 AM or at such time im1mediately thereafter according to convenience of Tribunal on **28-11- 2023** to answer the claim.
2. A copy of the application and annexures are not enclosed herewith. You are directed to collect the same on your appearance before the tribunal.
3. If you intend to file any documents, you may file the same with list along with the written statement.
4. You should file your registered address and memo of appearance when you enter appearance before the tribunal either in person or by a pleader/Advocate duly instructed.
5. Take Notice that, in default of your appearance on the day mentioned herein before, the proceeding will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal, on this 7th day of July 2023 at Bengaluru.

By order of the Tribunal
Sd/- Registrar
DRT-1, Bengaluru

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ARTHI Shanmugam D/O K. Shanmugam residing at #442, 7th cross, Narayannagar 2nd block, Doddakalasandra, Bangalore 560062, have changed my name to Arthi Palani vide affidavit Dt:04/07/2023 sworn before notary G.R. Rajanna, Bangalore–62.

I, AJIT. T S/o Tejraj Lodha R/o Flat No.8A, Aga Abbas Ali Road, Bengaluru-560042 have changed my name from Ajit. T to Ajit Lodha vide affidavit dt: 29-05-2023 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'luru.

I, SHREEMANT Rathod, R/o Flat No.002, Sri Vari Residency, 6th Cross, Rangappa Road, BSK 3rd Stage, 3rd Phase, Bengaluru-560085 have changed my name to Shreemant K Rathod vide affidavit dt: 07.07.2023 sworn before Notary R.Basavaraja, B'lore

I Ajay Nandikol alias Ajjappa Shekhappa Nandikol alias Ajjappa Nandikol S/o Shekhappa, residing at Hirekanagi, VTC:Hirekanagi. Po: Hirekanagi, Haveri, Karnataka-581104 have changed my name to Ajay Nandikol for all purposes in future

I Fathima Ibrahim D/o Khaleel Ibrahim , residing at Lalitha Raj Nilaya, Behind Vakkaligara Kalyana Mantapa, Vijayapura Extension, Chikmagalur, Karnataka - 577101, have changed my name to Danya Devaraj do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have embraced the Hinduism religion and renounced the Islam religion with effect from 30/11/2022 for all purposes in future

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

WHO ARE the obscured formal RUFFIANS´ Kingpins supported by SPOOKS thrived since last 35 years ? Who are the formal syndicates top professional goon assassinators controlling special mercenaries for pre–medical shattering ? Can monsters read mind & control human remotely ? Do not deviate from the crux: Details of ultra vicious CRIMINALS committing atrocities against humanity. Genuine informations, Whatts App: 94973 26991

LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE HON'BLE SPECIAL DISTRICT JUDGE AT VILLUPURAM, TAMILNADU.
MCOP.No.:43/2019
Rajeshwari and 4 others
---- Petitioners
---- VS----
1.Vijayakumar, S/o.Muniyan,
2.The Branch Manager, Bajaj Alliance General Insurance Company Limited
---- Respondents.

1st Respondent
1.Vijayakumar, S/o.Muniyan, E.223-94/3, Mneshwara Lay-out Somasundarapalya, BANGALORE -560102

NOTICE

Please take Notice that my client Rajeshwari, wife of Ramamoorthi had filed an application for compensation against you as 1st Respondent and that the said court has numbered the same as MCOP No.43/2019 and the same was posted on 26-07-2023 for your appearance at 10. 30 am either in person or through your pleader and to place your objection if any in the above said case. If you are failing which, the petition will be decided exparte against you.

Advocate
P.SELVAKUMAR, B.Com., B.L.,
VILLUPURAM.

Karsten Warholm's revenge quest on track

The Olympic champion is still annoyed about losing his World Championships crown last year. Having recovered from the injury that hampered his 400m hurdles title defence, the 27-year-old world record holder is building to a peak for next month's World Championships

GETTY IMAGES

Reuters
Associated Press

It was an unusual evening's work for Karsten Warholm last Sunday.

The Olympic champion in the 400m hurdles warmed up in a parking garage in downtown Stockholm so that he could arrive "dry and warm coming to the start" at the Diamond League event. In addition to a cool, rainy evening – not ideal conditions to run flat out in – he had to contend with something he would never have simulated in training: environmental protesters.

They knelt on the track about eight metres from the finish line, holding two banners that spanned from lanes one to six, forcing runners to break through them. Warholm, running in lane eight, had no barrier in his way but seemed distracted, with a fourth apparent protester squatting in lane seven seeming to photograph the incident. He was visibly angry with the protesters as they were led away while spectators booed. His winning time on a wet evening was 47.57 seconds, understandably outside his 45.94 world record set at the Tokyo Olympics two years ago.

Where he wants to be

After expressing his displeasure at the interruption – "It is permissible to protest, but this is not the way to do it," he told Norwegian broadcaster NRK – Warholm assessed the performance which brought him a second win in a row, following the Oslo Diamond League. "I felt very good before the start, but the conditions make it a little bit more challenging," he said. "I felt I had to post another good time, so I am very pleased. I am 100% exactly where I want to be."

Where Warholm wants to be is in a position to regain the world title this year and break his own world record again. In an injury-plagued 2022 season, he lost at the World Championships in Eugene, Oregon; a win would have given him a hat-trick of world crowns. It's a defeat that still rankles, a loss that angered him so much that he is determined to avenge it.

Warholm had walked into Eugene with a question mark over his head after suffering a hamstring tear the previous month. He led coming into the home straight but seized up badly and eventually finished seventh (48.42), with Brazilian rival and Tokyo bronze medallist Alison Dos Santos winning in a blazing-fast 46.29 seconds, the third-best time in history. The loss broke a winning streak of 22 races, including 18 finals, dating back to September 2018.

"I'm p****d because I lost my world title and of course I'm going to fight to get it back," he said after his win at the Oslo Diamond League this June, when he stamped his return to top of the 400m hurdles with a world-leading 46.52s in front of his home crowd. It was the fourth-fastest performance in history and the second-fastest time of his career (behind his world record).

> What I love about 400m hurdles is that it combines a lot of different abilities. I love how the rhythm works in the first eight hurdles, and the last 100m is all about getting home

THE WARHOLM FILE

Born: February 28, 1996

Country: Norway

Height: 6 feet 1.5 inches

Primary event: 400m hurdles

Honours: 1xOlympic champion; 2xWorld champion; 2xEuropean champion; 2 world records set

PROGRESSION IN 400M HURDLES (BEST EACH YEAR)

2014: 52.50
2015: 51.09
2016: 48.49
2017: 48.22
2018: 47.64
2019: 46.92
2020: 46.87
2021: 45.94 (WR)
2022: 47.12
2023: 46.52 (Fourth-fastest time in history)

> From the first step, for me it's a battle to win. When the gun goes, there are no jokes for me anymore

Bouncing back

The Oslo Diamond League was his first time racing the 400m hurdles in nine months. After last year's World Championships loss in July, Warholm bounced back at the European Championships in Munich the very next month, retaining his title with a championship record of 47.12 seconds. After another victory at ISTAF Berlin, he closed his season so he could rest, recover and begin to build for the World Championships, scheduled in Budapest next month.

Warholm began his 2023 season indoors over the 400m flat. Competing in the one-lapper gives him the baseline speed that serves him well in the 400m hurdles – and this was evident in how he attacked the start of the race at Oslo. "I'm very confident with my opening as long as my fitness level is where I want it to be, which it is right now... probably even better than I thought as well," he said after setting the season's leading time.

Starting fast is central to Warholm's approach to the 400m hurdles. "Without trying to be cocky, I think we have changed the way everyone runs the 400m hurdles," he said. "A lot of people start faster now than they did, even in the women's 400m hurdles. I think before everyone was talking about this rhythm and you have to find it by starting slow and finishing the race fast. But you have to open tough because you can't go out there and pick up those tenths [of a second] in the end."

> Without trying to be cocky, I think we have changed the way everyone runs the 400m hurdles. A lot of people start faster now than they did... You have to open tough because you can't go out there and pick up those tenths [of a second] in the end

Changing the game

Warholm forced people to view the 400m hurdles differently with a jaw-dropping performance under the fierce mid-day sun at Tokyo's Olympic Stadium in 2021, becoming the first man in history to break the 46-second barrier. His 45.94 significantly improved his own world mark of 46.70 set earlier that year when he bettered Kevin Young's 29-year-old world record.

Warholm's aggression, success and swagger have made him one of the sport's biggest stars – when he announced his arrival on the global stage by winning his first world title as a baby-faced 21-year-old in 2017, his incredulous reaction, with his fingers around his mouth, mimicking the famous painting 'The Scream' by Norwegian artist Edvard Munch, went viral. A third world title, another world record and gold at next year's Paris Olympics will make him not just one of the most decorated athletes in history, but it will also place him in the greatest-ever conversation. Warholm believes it's his all-encompassing desire to win that has propelled him to these stratospheric heights. It has also shaped his hard-charging, "violent" style.

"There are a lot of athletes around the world that have bigger natural potential than myself," he told Athletics Weekly. "I think it's easy when you see a very gifted, talented runner who has all these things naturally, but me? It's something I have created over the years with training. It's always been me running because I really want to win.

The power of desire

"I really want to achieve and it's all this willpower going into my stride. Yes, I think it's violent. It's not something that I do on purpose but that's the way I get out my speed and I think, from the first step, for me it's a battle to win. When the gun goes, there are no jokes for me anymore."

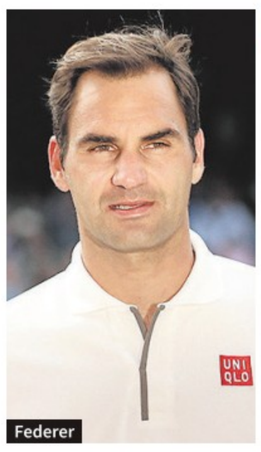
Warholm is deadly serious about making amends for losing his world title to Dos Santos – it's something of a revenge quest – and the two are set to meet in the Monaco Diamond League on July 21 in a preview to the Worlds in August. The 27-year-old Norwegian believes he is on track: after clocking 46.52s in his 2023 opener in Oslo, he said, "Today shows in the right circumstances, I can really attack the world record, maybe even this year."

Against Dos Santos, who went unbeaten last year and is the third-fastest 400m hurdler in history, and Rai Benjamin, the second-fastest 400m hurdler in history, Warholm will have to be at his very best. It's a challenge he relishes. As he once said, "If you want to be top dog you've got to perform and then learn how to live with being the favourite."

GAME THEORY

Most successful men's champions at Wimbledon

With the 2023 Championships set to enter its second week, we take a look at the players who have won the most men's singles titles in Wimbledon history. The first edition was played in 1877. It featured a 22-player draw with five knockout rounds. From 1878 to 1921, the event started with a knockout phase, the All Comers' Singles, whose winner then faced the defending champion in the challenge round. The winner of the challenge round was the Wimbledon champion. Since 1922, the men's competition has been a single-phase knockout event.


Federer

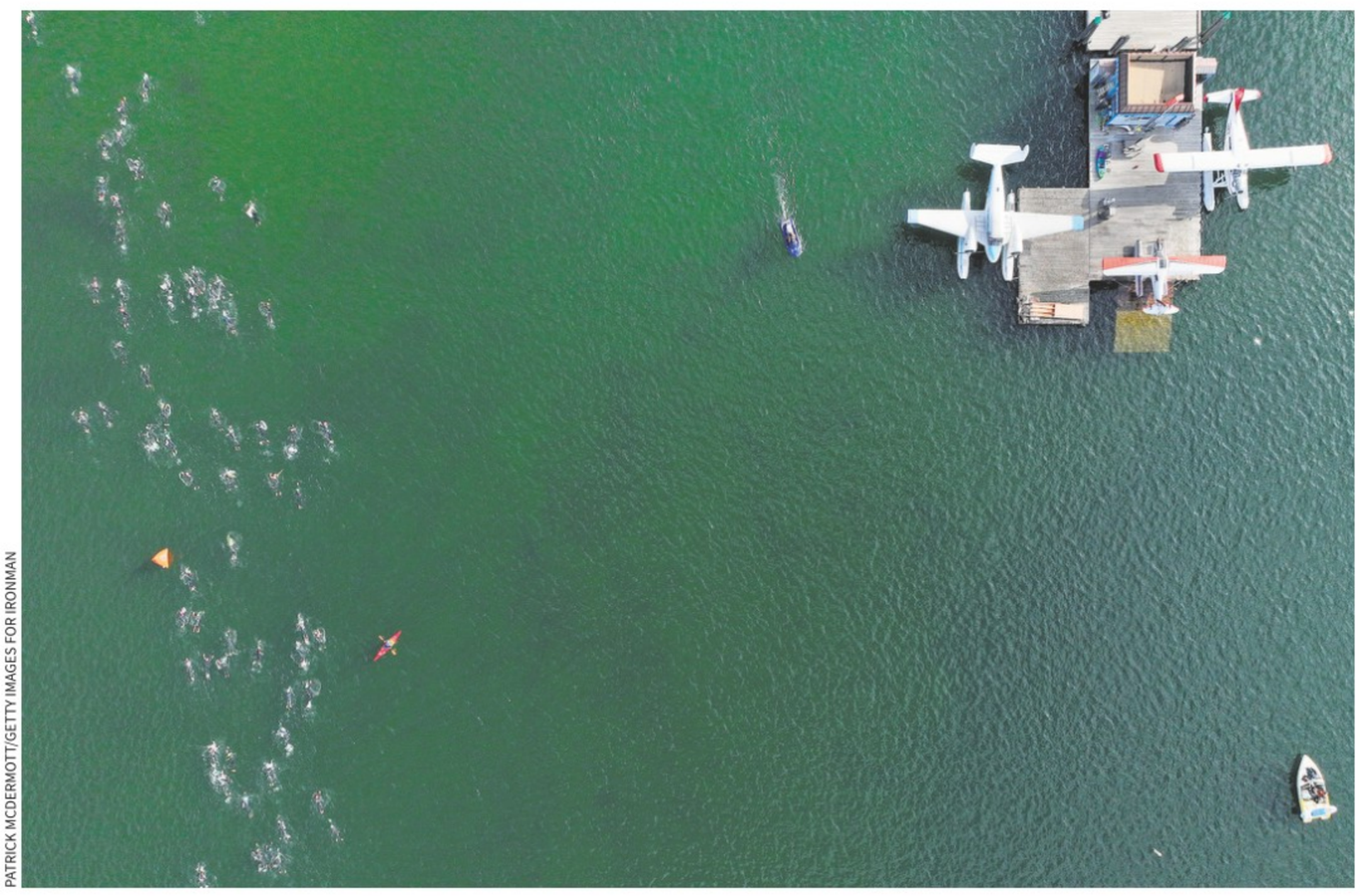
Sampras

Renshaw

Djokovic

Player	Titles	Years
Roger Federer	8	2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012, 2017
William Renshaw	7	1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1889
Pete Sampras	7	1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000
Novak Djokovic	7	2011, 2014, 2015, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022
Laurence Doherty	5	1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906
Bjorn Borg	5	1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980
Reginald Doherty	4	1897, 1898, 1899, 1900
Anthony Wilding	4	1910, 1911, 1912, 1913
Rod Laver	4	1961, 1962, 1968, 1969
Wilfred Baddeley	3	1891, 1892, 1895
Arthur Gore	3	1901, 1908, 1909
Bill Tilden	3	1920, 1921, 1930
Fred Perry	3	1934, 1935, 1936
John Newcombe	3	1967, 1970, 1971
John McEnroe	3	1981, 1983, 1984
Boris Becker	3	1985, 1986, 1989

PICTURE THIS



PATRICK MCDERMOTT/GETTY IMAGES FOR IRONMAN

Lake placid

This photograph presents an aerial view of athletes competing on the swim course during the recent IRONMAN Coeur d'Alene event.

Lake Coeur d'Alene, described as the crown jewel of Northern Idaho, is a natural dam-controlled lake named after the Coeur d'Alene people, a federally recognised tribe of Native Americans who live along the rivers and lakes of the region.

The 2.4-mile swim loop is the first part of the IRONMAN Coeur d'Alene. The lake is flat most mornings with average water temperatures in the 20-22 degree Celsius range.

"You'll exchange ease for beauty, average for iconic," the official website claims, and it's hard to disagree.

The athletes may find it a little more challenging, however, to enjoy the picturesque surroundings, given that they follow the swim with a 112-mile bike ride around the city of Coeur d'Alene and the rolling hills of Northern Idaho. Then, it's time for a 26.22-mile marathon run.

If there's any comfort, it is the fact that there are few better places to recover after the exertions of an IRONMAN than the idyllic lakeside retreat.

SATURDAY
July 8, 2023

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Department of Information & Public Relations, Punjab

26/14/6/2023/25676

State to offer ₹4 lakh life, accident cover to gig workers, but they demand more

The Congress in its election manifesto had said it would set up a Gig Workers' Welfare Board, but the Budget has no mention of it

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Gig workers in Karnataka will be provided a life insurance cover of ₹2 lakh and accidental insurance of another ₹2 lakh, proposed the state Budget 2023-24, presented here on Friday.

The entire insurance premium would be borne by the State government, said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah while presenting the Budget.

"In order to provide social security to the 'Gig Workers' in the unorganised sector, that is people employed as full/part-time delivery personnel in e-commerce companies like Swiggy, Zomato, Amazon etc will be provided an insurance facility of total ₹4 lakh towards life insurance and accidental insurance," the Chief Minister said.

He said the inefficient management of Covid pandemic and anti-labour policies of the previous government has caused immense hardship to the labour class.

"Our government honours every sweat of hard work, and will make every effort to promote the health and welfare of the working class by creating a labour-friendly atmosphere in the state," he further said.

Responding to Budget proposal, Shaik Salauddin, National General Secretary, Indian Federation of App Based Transport Workers (IFAT) said, the Congress Party in its election manifesto had stated that it would set up a Gig Workers' Welfare Board with a seed fund of ₹3,000 crore, however the Budget had no mention of it.

Under the Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines of the Union Government, Gig workers are entitled to get a term insurance of ₹15 lakh, and health insurance of ₹10 lakh.

"The insurance amount announced in the Budget is lesser than the amount that worker's families could claim from these companies in case of an eventuality/accident. Karnataka is offering only a total of ₹4 lakh and this could make aggregator companies offer a smaller insurance cover or show unwillingness to offer life and health cover as per aggregator guidelines," Salauddin added.

West Bengal has recently implemented Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines for its Gig Workers while Maharashtra is currently in the process of adopting these guidelines, as per him.

daCunha/AB/886

KARNATAKA BUDGET 2023-24

Crane collapses at metro construction site

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A crane that was carrying steel rods for piling work of Bangalore Metropolitan Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) near Silk Board junction toppled on its side causing traffic snarls on the service road from HSR Layout, and BTM Layout towards Madiwala on Friday. No injuries were reported.

The accident occurred between 8 and 8.15 p.m. on the service road near the down ramp of the Silk Board flyover. "The work was going on to fit metal gauges into the ground when the crane skidded and fell on its side. There must have been a stone beneath the crane or in between the tires which gave way and led to the mishap," said Sujeetha Salman, DCP, Traffic, South Division.

While the commuters going from BTM Layout to Madiwala were directed to proceed via 14th main HSR Layout, and those going from HSR Layout towards Madiwala, were asked to go via BTM Layout until the service road was cleared.

"Although there were traffic snarls immediately after the incident, the BMRCL officials and us (BTP) worked together and gave diversions. The crane was removed, and traffic on the road was restored by 11 p.m." Ms. Salman added.

She also confirmed that while the driver of the crane suffered no injuries, no vehicles were also damaged in the mishap.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, a BMRCL official said, "The crane slipped during the work and the caging had tilted. The contractor and engineer are on the job to set it right."

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, JUL. 08		
RISE	05:59	SET 18:50
RISE	23:18	SET 10:44
SUNDAY, JUL. 09		
RISE	05:59	SET 18:50
RISE	23:59	SET 11:39
MONDAY, JUL. 10		
RISE	06:00	SET 18:50
RISE	00:00	SET 12:31

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	23
Mysuru	29	23
Bengaluru	27	21

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain or thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Thunderstorm may occur.

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Metro services to be disrupted

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As BMRCL is talking up signalling and other related works between Baiyappanahalli and Krishnarajapura Metro Stations.

There will be no train services from 5.00 a.m. to 7.00 a.m. between Baiyappanahalli and S. V. Road Metro Station, and between Krishnarajapura to Whitfield (Kadugodi)from July 10 to Aug 9.

Buggy for Mysuru zoo

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

An 11-seater battery operated buggy will be handed over to the Mysuru zoo on Saturday by Rane (Madras) Ltd, Mysuru, which donated the vehicle as part of its corporate social responsibility. The buggy, costing ₹4.98 lakh, will be added to the existing fleet of zero emission vehicles that ferry visitors . The buggies are useful to senior citizens, children and people with disabilities.

THE HINDU
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Cheil-16435/23

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

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ART&CULTURE

KFI museum in Bengaluru and film city in Mysuru

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, in his Budget speech, announced that a museum documenting the historical development of Kannada film industry will be established near Dr. Rajkumar memorial in Bengaluru. Although the creation of a world class film city in Mysuru was announced by Congress during its previous regime, the BJP government had transferred the project to Bengaluru. However, the film city will now be developed in Mysuru district under Public Private Partnership model, the Chief Minister confirmed.

START-UPS

World-class incubation centre to come up

The Budget proposes to establish a world-class incubation centre 'INNOVERSE' with hi-tech facilities for start-ups at a cost of ₹50 crore. For this, a grant of ₹10 cr. has been earmarked in the current year. There is also a proposal to establish a Centre of Excellence in Wireless and Wired Technologies under Public Private Partnership model at the cost of ₹25 crore for which a grant of ₹5 crore has been allocated. A proposal to establish a Centre of Excellence in Design at project cost of ₹20 crore has also been made for which a grant of ₹8 crore has been provided.

IMPROPRIETY

Man arrested for sitting in MLA's seat

The Vidhana Soudha police arrested a 70-year-old man for sitting on an MLA's chair at Legislative Assembly on Friday.

Having no authorisation, the man entered the Assembly and was sitting on the MLA's chair. He was first noticed by Janata Dal (Secular) MLA, Sharangowda Kandakur.

The man, who hailed from Chitradurga, was sitting in Janata Dal (Secular) MLA Kariyamma's seat.

When confronted, he claimed that he is an MLA. Later in the day, it was brought to the notice of the Speaker.

INNOVATION

Technology Innovation Park to be developed

With the focus on developing semiconductor ecosystem in Karnataka, a Technology Innovation Park will be developed in 100 acres of land in Kadugodi in Bengaluru. This will provide services in testing, design, innovation, research and development of semiconductors, besides housing Technical Research Institute.

The State government will also develop a mega industrial township at Karnataka government-owned BEML land to promote economic activities in the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor.

INFRA BOOST

Automated and centralised blood bank

A completely automated and centralised blood bank management system will be established in Bengaluru Medical College and Research Institute at the cost of ₹5 crore. The Budget also proposed grant of ₹25 crore to provide infrastructure facilities to University of Visvesvaraya College Of Engineering, Bengaluru.

256 acres to be converted into parks

In the coming five years, as many as 256 acres of land will be converted into parks in Bengaluru city, said the Chief Minister. This emphasises govt.'s focus on climate change policy.

37 km metro line from Hebbal to Sarjapur proposed

The State government has proposed construction of a new metro line of about 37 km between Hebbal and Sarjapur at an estimated cost of ₹15,000 crore. The State government will be submitting a proposal to the Union government for approval.

Namma Metro, with a network of around 70 km and availed by 5.7 lakh commuters everyday, is the second largest metro network in the country. The Budget said that this fiscal, the metro lines will be expanded by 100 km. The lines will be expanded from Baiyyappanahalli to Krishnarajapura, Kengeri to Challaghatta, Nagasandra to Madawara and R.V. Road to Bommasandra. The total addition of new lines by the end of 2024 will be 27 km. Further, in the next three years, the metro network will be increased from 70 km to 176 km which is 2.5 times the present network coverage, the Budget said. The Budget further said a Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been submitted to the Union government for the approval of Metro Phase-3 at a cost of ₹16,328 crore.

This project encompasses a total length of 45 km starting from Kempapura to J.P. Nagar 4th phase and from Hosahalli to Kadabagere including Western Outer Ring Road line. The Budget said Namma Metro and Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project are being implemented at the estimated cost of ₹30,000 crore. These projects will require at least 5 years for completion. Meanwhile, the State government has set aside ₹1,000 crore for Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project. It should be noted that the total allocation for this project is ₹15,767 crore, out of which ₹3,242 crore is central share and loan component (external sources) is ₹ 7,438 crore. The Central government has released ₹500 crore and State ₹660 crore.

Museums across State set to be developed

Museums became the centres of attention of the tourism sector in Karnataka Budget. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced that "Karnataka Archaeological Museum and Art Gallery" will be established in Mysuru on a two-and-a-half-acre government land near Chamundi Vihar stadium to exhibit the rich art and cultural heritage of Karnataka.

Considering the large number of domestic and international tourists who visit Mysuru, the museum will be integrated with international standard Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) technology. Further, the State government will also take up phased development of 16 museums to make them attractive and interactive.

Out of the 16, the government museums in Kalaburagi, Gadag and Bengaluru districts are planned to be developed in the current financial year along with the transformation of Ananda Mahal building in Vijayapura as a museum.

Stating that Karnataka has not been able to fully utilise its potential in the tourism sector under its tagline "One State Many Worlds", CM Siddaramaiah said that a master plan called 'Karnataka Tourism Development Vision' will be implemented to help the State become a global tourism destination. While earmarking ₹75 crore for the comprehensive development of tourist destinations in the Kalyana Karnataka region, the government will also take up comprehensive development of tourist destinations of Kitturu Karnataka Region. Mr. Siddaramaiah also announced that to develop coastal tourism in the State, mainly in Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, and Uttara Kannada districts, the State government will form a 'Coastal Beach Tourism Task Force'. Along with this, a detailed plan will be drawn out for the comprehensive development of the coast by the government.

In Mysuru, under the Muzrai department, Sri Chamundeshwari Temple Development Authority will be constituted for the development of Chamundi Hills while also providing necessary infrastructure to lakhs of devotees who visit the temple.

'Brand Bengaluru' initiative receives no major boost

The Budget presented by the Congress government has little to offer towards building new infrastructure in the city. Apart from that, it has also slashed allocation for road infrastructure

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

In contrary to expectations, the much hyped "Brand Bengaluru" initiative spearheaded by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who also holds charge of the city, seems to have barely added anything new for the city in the Karnataka Budget that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah presented on Friday.

The Budget has provided ₹100 crore for revamping and expansion of Indira Canteens, a marquee scheme of the previous Congress regime that had fallen out of favour under the BJP regime.

However, in the backdrop of the alleged factionalism between the two leaders who were locked in a hot contest for the Chief Minister's post, the first thing that caught everybody's eye in the Budget speech on Friday, was that there was no separate section for Bengaluru Development, like it has been for many years now, but was clubbed under the Urban Development Department, despite the DCM heading the portfolio.

Interestingly, the Budget also doesn't mention the Tunnel Road project, championed by Mr. Shivakumar.

While the project is in its initial stages of consultation, it doesn't even commit to the project and earmarks no funds for conducting a Feasibility Study or a Detailed Project Report.

The State government has cut 20% of the allocation for white-topping of city roads. FILE PHOTO

Comparison

The Budget Basavaraj Bommai, who also held charge of the city, presented in February this year allocated ₹9,698 crore under the head "Comprehensive Development of Bengaluru". Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, in his Budget speech on Friday, said there are ongoing works worth ₹12,000, including works taken up under Amrutha Nagarothana, high-density corridor, road white-topping, solid waste management, anti-encroachment drive, repairs/remodelling of canals and filling potholes in the city. Sources said these ongoing works include works proposed in the 2023-24 February Budget and spillover works from the previous year. While there is a commitment to complete these works, the Budget presented on Friday, has little to offer towards building new infrastructure in the city. The Budget has also slashed allocation for road infrastructure.

The State government has cut 20% of the allocation for white-topping of city roads.

No fresh allocation is provided towards storm-water drains, but according to a Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike official, the previous allocation of ₹1,800 crore will continue

In the previous Budget, the then Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai had allocated ₹1,000 crore for white-topping of 120 km of arterial roads and this has been cut down to ₹800 crore and now white-topping will be taken up only for 100 km long roads. Both Budgets – presented in February and July – reiterate projects to build a rotary flyover at M. Visveswaraya Terminal at Baiyyappanahalli and develop 100 km of major roads that are part of High Density Corridors.

Traffic issues

About Peripheral Ring Road (PRR), which was designed to ease traffic congestion, the Budget said the government will resolve all legal hurdles and make sincere efforts to implement the project expeditiously.

No allocation was made on this front.

No fresh allocation is provided towards storm-water drains, but according to a Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) official, the previous allocation of ₹1,800 crore will continue.

Welfare programmes for OBC students to be revived

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has revived many welfare programmes for students of Other Backward Communities in his Budget which were announced in his past Budgets but were put on the backburner.

The government has promised to relaunch the 'Arivu' scheme under which education loan up to a maximum of ₹1 lakh with 2% interest will be provided to students of OBC communities pursuing professional courses like Engineering, Medical, etc.

"Under the 'Vidyasiri' scheme, for the students who have not obtained admission in government hostels, an amount of ₹15,000 was provided for food and accommodation. During our government's tenure, assistance of ₹432 crore was provided for a total of 3.6 lakh students. Unfortunately, this scheme was not properly implemented during the tenure of the previous government in 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23. As this scheme plays an important role in increasing the enrolment of students belonging to the OBCs in higher education, the scheme will be continued with renewed vigor in the current year," he announced.

To encourage the enrolment of students belonging to the OBCs in higher education, a post-matric scholarship of ₹881 crore was granted to 24 lakh students.

The discontinued programme will be now relaunched.

STP infrastructure expected to get a fillip

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

Solid Waste Management and Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) infrastructure in the city is expected to get a big fillip this year.

In a new scheme announced in the budget on Friday, the city will get ₹1250 crore for effective disposal of legacy waste, liquid waste management and to control the flow of pollutants into lakes. "Under this scheme, Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) will take up building new STPs up to a total capacity of 400 MLD in the 110 villages where underground drainage is newly laid," said N. Jayaram, chairman, BWSSB. This is in addition to upgradation of 20 STPs at a cost of ₹1411 crore, taken up by the Board out of its own funds. The Minor Irrigation Department has set aside ₹529 crore for implementation of Phase -2 of the project to divert treated sewage water from Koramangala Challaghatta Valley and Hebbal Nagavara Valley to 296 tanks in Kolar and Chikkaballapur districts. By taking away water from the city's water ecosystem, this will also help in flood mitigation, even as it helps provide water for drought prone neighbouring districts. Flood mitigation works will also be taken up from the National Disaster Mitigation Fund. Some part of this funding will be used by Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Corporation Ltd (BSWMCL) to biomine legacy waste in landfills like Mandur and quarries, totalling to 97 lakh tonnes and reclaim 256 acres of land. The funds will also be used to put up scientific waste processing units, sources said.

Airstrips proposed in Dharmasthala, Kodagu, and Chikkamagaluru; ecologists question move

K.C. Deepika
BENGALURU

Karnataka government has proposed to develop airstrips in Dharmasthala, Kodagu and Chikkamagaluru with the intention of "promoting tourism, industrial sector and support disaster management measures."

However, with existing opposition to similar measures that included a railway line to Kodagu's Kushalnagar, the new move is being questioned by ecologists.

Ecologically fragile

T.V. Ramachandra from the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, said air connectivity helps, but not when it means disturbing ecologically fragile regions such as Kodagu, Dakshina Kannada and Chikkamagaluru. "There are already airports in Mangaluru and Kannur. These are fragile regions and the damage is already done to these places. What we need is a carrying capacity study by a competent authority in these regions," he said.

Other measures proposed to reduce disaster risks and strengthen fire and emergency services include works worth ₹721 crore from National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) such as flood control in Bengaluru, and landslide risk mitigation in Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru, Dakshina Kannada and Hassan districts.

Mitigating conflict

Increasing instances of man-elephant conflict prompted measures in the new Budget too, with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah saying of the 520 km of forest barricades proposed under the Congress's previous tenure, 312 km has been constructed and priority will be given to the construction of the remaining barricade with ₹120 crore set aside for it for 2023-24.

Task forces

Elephant task forces have been set up in Mysuru, Mandya, Chikkamagaluru, Hassan and Kodagu and in the current year, two new elephant task forces will be set up in Ramanagara and Bannerghatta area, he added.

A Blackbuck Conservation Reserve has been announced in Bidar at a cost of ₹2 crore while the Budget also allocated ₹500 crore for the "Hasireekarana programme" for 17 districts of the Bayaluseeme region to improve the 10% forest coverage in the region and bring it on par with the 33% prescribed by the National Forest Policy.

Apart from these, strengthening of rehabilitation centres at Bannerghatta and Mysuru for animals rescued during man-animal conflicts, as well as the construction of new rehabilitation centres at Shivamogga and Belagavi have been announced.

Mr. Siddaramaiah also said as provisions of the Forest Rights Act pose a major hindrance to providing housing to forest dwellers, a proposal will be submitted to the Central government to bring amendments to the Act.

To promote decarbonisation of economy and encourage green growth, a scheme will be commenced for the voluntary disclosure of Green House Gases (GHGs) by the organisations in the State, he added.

SATURDAY
July 8, 2023

BENGALURU
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J BG-BGE

TRIBUTE TO ACTOR

Cardiac care in Puneeth Rajkumar's name

In memory of late actor Puneeth Rajkumar, who died of sudden cardiac arrest in October 2021, the State Budget has proposed to install Automated External Defibrillators (AED) in all district and taluk hospitals to help revive patients with sudden cardiac arrest. A sum of ₹6 crore will be provided for this. AED is a medical device that can analyse the heart's rhythm and, if necessary, deliver direct current shock to the heart to help the heart re-establish an effective rhythm, said C.N. Manjunath, director of Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research.

GOLDEN JUBILEE

Kidwai gets ₹20 crore to upgrade facilities

Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, which is celebrating its golden jubilee this year, has been allocated ₹20 crore for upgradation of facilities at its regional units in Kalaburagi and Mysuru.

The institute, which was inaugurated by former President V.V. Giri in 1973, with a 50-bed strength, has now grown into a 746-bed premier cancer research centre in the country, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said in his Budget speech.

The institute sees 21,000 new cases and a follow-up of 3.8 lakh patients per year. It provides cancer treatment at affordable costs.

MODERNISATION

Reforms in public sector undertakings

The Budget proposes to bring in reforms in the public sector undertakings (PSUs) in the State to make them compete with their competitors at the national and international level. Karnataka has around 120 PSUs employing more than two lakh employees.

"We will bring in reforms for the modernisation of PSUs. The reforms will also focus on instilling professionalism and encouraging the public sector to compete at the national and international level through innovations in design, products and better marketing," Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said in his Budget speech.

BRANDING COFFEE

Eco-coffee tourism to be promoted

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said measures would be taken up for branding of Karnataka coffee and also to promote coffee eco-tourism. Arabica coffee varieties grown in Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu, and Bababudanagiri apart from having a unique flavour and aroma also carry Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.

"Arabica coffee varieties of Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu, and Bababudanagiri which have a unique flavour and aroma carry GI Tag. Measures will be taken up for branding of Karnataka coffee and encourage coffee eco-tourism," Mr. Siddaramaiah said in his Budget speech.

'SASYA SHAMALA'

50 lakh saplings to be planted

The School Education and Literacy and Forest departments will collaborate for the implementation of 'Sasya Shamala' a programme under which 50 lakh saplings will be planted in and around schools in the current year, according to the Budget.

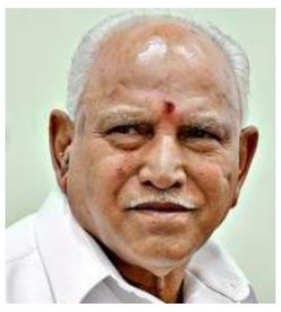
Also proposed in the Budget is the 'Vidhyarthigaligagi Thotagarike' (Horticulture for Students) scheme.

'Vidhyarthigaligagi Thotagarike' scheme will be started to provide practical knowledge about the horticultural sector to high school students," states the Budget.

RIVALS SPEAK

The Budget looks like a political statement that will affect the Centre-State relationship. It is a Budget to shift the blame on the BJP and the Centre. There is no clarity on how much money will be given for big projects though borrowing has increased.

H.D. KUMARASWAMY,
JD(S) leader



The State Budget was like a political speech. The main intention of the Chief Minister was to criticise the BJP government at the Centre and the previous BJP government in the State rather than focusing on informing people about what his government will do for them.

B.S. YEDIYURAPPA,
former Chief Minister

Taxes, borrowings up, allocation cut to fund guarantee schemes

The guarantees will provide ₹4,000 to ₹5,000 monthly to a beneficiary family, says Chief Minister Siddaramaiah

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

All smiles: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with legislators after presenting the State Budget in the Legislative Assembly in Bengaluru on Friday.

Increase in taxes, prioritisation of government programmes, and additional borrowings will together fund the five pre-poll guarantees of the Congress government, even as allocation to some crucial departments and subsidies have come down in the full-fledged "guarantee Budget" presented by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday.

The five guarantees are expected to cross ₹52,000 crore annually when implemented in the full year. Mr. Siddaramaiah estimated that ₹35,410 crore is required to fulfil the guarantees in the rest of this year.

Revenue-deficit Budget

When asked about the programmes and schemes that may have taken a hit, he told reporters in the post-Budget presentation press conference, "Some programmes have come down and some have gone up." He said, "We have not been able to present a revenue-surplus Budget due to the implementation of the guarantees. However, in the other two parameters of fiscal deficit and debt ratio to GSDP, we are within the limits prescribed in the Fiscal Responsibility Act," he added. The revenue deficit has been pegged at ₹12,523 crore.

While allocations to departments such as Energy, Women and Child Development, and Food and Civil Supplies, that are implementing the guarantees, have gone up, the allocations to crucial departments such as Education, Health and Family Welfare, Agriculture, Water Resources, Urban Development, and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj have come down in comparison to the Budget allocation in 2022-2023.

Allocation to each

This year, the government has estimated the cost of implementing Gruha Lakshmi to be around ₹17,500 crore to benefit women heads of 1.3 crore families in the State with a monthly assistance of ₹2,000. An allocation of ₹2,800 crore has been made in the Budget for the Shakti scheme this year which will benefit about 49.6 lakh women with free travel in public transport buses. The Gruha Jyothi scheme of 200 free units of power to households will cost ₹9,000 crore this year, and the Anna Bhagya scheme of providing 5 kg additional free rice will cost about ₹10,275 crore. Yuva Nidhi, the financial assistance scheme for unemployed graduates and diploma holders, will need about ₹250 crore, taking the total to be around ₹39,825 crore, data from the government shows.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said the guarantees would provide ₹4,000 to ₹5,000 monthly to a beneficiary family and between ₹48,000 and ₹60,000 annually.

How money will come

To fund the guarantees, the State government has proposed to increase taxes and it is expected to bring about ₹13,500 crore while prioritisation of programmes, including a reduced allocation to some, will provide the government an additional ₹7,000 crore. While Mr. Siddaramaiah said ₹8,000 crore additional borrowings would be made to fund the guarantees, the actual borrowings would increase by over ₹13,000 crore from ₹72,000 crore in 2022-2023 to ₹85,818 crore this financial year. When the former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai presented his Budget in February, he had estimated the borrowings to be around ₹78,000 crore.

The increase in the guidance values of properties, which was last revised in 2018-2019 will fetch the government an additional ₹6,000 crore, and the increase in excise duty on Indian-made liquor and beer will fetch ₹1,000 crore. The government is looking at an increase in the collection of taxes by ₹4,000 crore (commercial tax). The targets for revenues have been increased to fetch an additional ₹1,500 crore from the Mines Department and about ₹1,000 crore from the Transport Department. "We have not added burden on the people (to fund the guarantees)," he said while providing a detailed break-up of the increased revenue expected to accrue this year.

Meanwhile, the government has also slashed subsidies given to various departments to implement schemes despite the total subsidies going up to ₹45,401 crore, mainly towards implementing the guarantees, from ₹30,803 crore in 2022-2023.

The agriculture and horticulture subsidy has come down from ₹3,498 crore in 2022-2023 (revised estimate) to ₹2,607 crore this year, the subsidy to the Cooperation Department has come down from ₹2,307 crore (RE) in 2022-2023 to ₹1,949 crore this year, milk subsidy has come down from ₹1,207 crore (RE) in 2022-2023 to ₹1,180 crore this year, and the social welfare subsidy has gone down from ₹312 crore (RE) in 2022-2023 to ₹182 crore this year. The subsidy to the Food and Civil Supplies Department, which is implementing the Anna Bhagya scheme, has gone up from ₹2,810 crore (RE) in 2022-2023 to ₹10,275 crore in 2023-2024 and energy subsidy has gone up from ₹14,102 crore (RE) in 2022-2023 to ₹22,158 crore in 2023-2024.

Share of departments in the outlay (in ₹ crore)

	BUDGET 2023-24 (July)		BUDGET 2023-24 (February)		BUDGET 2022-23	
Education	37,587	11%	37,960	12%	31,980	12%
Women and Child Development	24,166	7%	5,676	2%	4,713	2%
Energy	22,773	7%	13,803	4%	12,655	5%
Urban Development and Housing	21,660	6%	21,725	7%	19,670	7%
Irrigation	19,044	6%	22,854	7%	20,601	8%
Rural Development and Panchayat Raj	18,038	5%	20,494	6%	17,325	6%
Home and Transport	16,638	5%	14,509	5%	11,272	4%
Revenue	16,167	5%	15,943	5%	14,388	5%
Health and Family Welfare	14,950	4%	15,151	5%	13,982	5%
Social Welfare	11,173	3%	11,163	4%	9,389	3%
Food and Civil Supplies	10,460	3%	4,600	1%	2,988	1%
Public Works	10,143	3%	10,741	3%	10,447	4%
Agriculture and Horticulture	5,860	2%	9,456	3%	8,457	3%
*Animal Husbandry and Fisheries	3,024	1%				
Others	1,09,639	32%	1,16,968	36%	93,676	35%

*In the previous Budgets, allocation for Animal Husbandry and Fisheries departments was included in the Others' category

₹100 crore to set up Christian development corporation in State

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

The State Budget presented on Friday announced ₹100 crore for the establishment of the Karnataka State Christian Development Corporation, a long-pending demand of the Christian community. They had been seeking the upgradation of the existing council into corporation.

Specific allocations have been made for various minority religious places and institutions, including ₹25 crore for the redevelopment of the Halasuru Gurudwara, ₹50 crore to develop Waqf Board and other religious properties, and ₹25 crore for the development of major pilgrimage centers of Jain community.

Another announcement that will bring reassurance to many students from underprivileged communities is the reinstation of scholarship at the pre-matric level. The Central government, in 2022, stopped pre-matric scholarships (Class I to Class VIII) to minority students. Mr. Siddaramaiah, in his Budget speech, said that many students belonging to minority communities had been put to hardship and his government would provide a grant of ₹60 crore to restart this scheme.

Meanwhile, a loan of ₹1 lakh per annum at a subsidised interest rate of 2% will be provided to minority students under the 'Arivu' educational loan scheme. The eligible beneficiaries will be students who get admission through CET to 28 professional courses.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said interest-free loans would be provided to the tune of ₹20 lakh to pursue graduate and postgraduate degrees in foreign universities with a global ranking of below 250. Language labs at Morarji Desai Residential School will get ₹5 crore to improve the Kannada and English languages of students belonging to the minority community.

CM trains guns on previous BJP govt. for corruption, fiscal indiscipline; blames Centre for 'injustice' to State

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah peppered his Budget speech on Friday with criticism of the previous Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in the State and the party-led government at the Centre and accused them of fiscal indiscipline, causing slow growth of economy, corruption, and maladministration.

"On the one hand, crony capitalists thrived, while on the other, common people suffered untold miseries. While the deadly pandemic was after our lives, maladministration and corruption cost common people much more," he said.

Defending the five guarantee schemes of the Congress, he said they were necessary to "bring the people out of the calamitous cycle of suffering on account of demonetisation, COVID-19 pandemic, political instability, uncontrolled price rise, and lack of vision for development." He claimed that corruption was one of the many significant contributions of the previous government.

Comparing the Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of various sectors of Karnataka's economy during 2013-18 under the previous Congress regime and during 2019-23 when the BJP was governing the State, he said the previous government failed to revive the State's economy from the COVID-19-induced slowdown. While the industrial sector grew at a CAGR of 8.7% and the service sector at a CAGR of 9.69% during 2013-18, the figures were 3.86% for the industrial sector and 4.25% for the service sector during 2019-23. Foreign direct investment inflows had dropped from $22 billion in 2021-22 to $10 billion in 2022-23.

A file photo of Congress leaders during a campaign against alleged corruption in the previous BJP government.

Accusing the previous government of fiscal indiscipline, Mr. Siddaramaiah alleged, "The total outstanding liabilities at the end of 2017-18 were ₹2,45,737 crore, which shot up to ₹5,16,788 crore by the end of 2022-23. The debt repayment liabilities of the State were 9.5% of the revenue receipts in 2017-18, which increased to 15.06% of the revenue receipts in 2022-23."

The Chief Minister pointed out that the previous government had failed to contain the committed expenditure and mobilise resources for public welfare programmes.

Mr. Siddaramaiah alleged "gross injustice" to Karnataka in tax devolution, as per the 15th Finance Commission, which recommended only 3.65% of the divisible pool to be devolved to the State despite being one of the main contributors to the Centre's revenue collection. Because of this, the State incurred a shortfall in tax devolution of ₹26,410 crore over the past three years, with ₹10,858 crore in 2023-24 alone.

"Although the same party was in power at the Centre, the then State government failed to protect the interests of the State by being a silent spectator without putting pressure on the Central government to not accept the anti-State recommendations of the commission," the Chief Minister said in his Budget speech.

He came down heavily on the Central government for not giving ₹5,495 crore special grants for 2020-21, State-specific grants of ₹3,000 crore for holistic improvement of waterbodies, and ₹3,000 crore for the Peripheral Ring Road in Bengaluru, despite a recommendation for the same by the 15th Finance Commission.

Lok Sabha dreams

Mr. Siddaramaiah appears to be trying to use the State Budget to make a pitch for the Lok Sabha polls as the next political target for his party.

"Our government will strive to uphold the enormous trust bestowed by the seven crore Kannadigas, build their radiant future and give wings to the dreams of millions of Indians languishing in the dark phase of today's India." the Chief Minister said in the Budget speech.

He not only blamed the Centre for the woes of the people of Karnataka but also attacked the BJP dispensation at the Centre. He said, "Our trust is in diversity and inclusiveness and not in authoritarianism."

Excise duty on IML up by 20%, beer from 175% to 185%

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday increased the additional excise duty on Indian-made liquor (IML) by 20% on all slabs. He also increased the additional excise duty on beer from 175% to 185%. IML and beer will cost more from August 1.

He also set a target of ₹36,000 crore to the Excise Department, and justified the hike to fund the guarantees. Speaking to presspersons later, he said that despite the hike, the price of liquor would be the lowest among the neighbouring States. However, Chief Executive Officer of International Spirits and Wines Association of India Nita Kapoor said that 20% hike would make Karnataka the most expensive State for spirits in India. "The State share of taxes at 80% of the MRP has restricted the growth of premium brands in Karnataka and the move will further decline of premiumisation and proliferate informal supply chains," she said.

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Home is where plants are

Knowing how to identify warning signs can help maintain healthy indoor plants, says **Teja Lele**

LIFESTYLE

Millennials may have sounded the death knell for many industries, including mass-market beers, paper napkins, cable TV, motorcycles/cars, and luxury goods, but they have helped one sector bloom.

A mid-pandemic survey by Article and OnePoll revealed that 70% of millennials call themselves a 'plant parent'. However, that doesn't mean that all of them are blessed with a green thumb. About half of those surveyed (48%) said they were unsure if they would be able to keep their plants alive.

Akhilesh Kadam, who runs a popular nursery in Vadodara, lists some "tolerant and forgiving" plants: monstera (Swiss Cheese plant), palms, calathea, anthuriums, string of hearts, snake plant, philodendron, jade plant, and string of pearls.

If you're looking for plants that also act as natural air purifiers, he suggests a bamboo palm, English ivy, dragon tree, Chinese evergreen, spider plant, aloe vera, rubber plant, or a weeping fig.

Kadam suggests repotting all your plants regularly (small ones once a year, large ones once in two-three years).

"When repotting, choose the right pot, going up by at least two inches in diameter to help your

plant grow larger. A drainage layer (1-3 inches) of pebbles, small stones, or broken pottery at the bottom will ensure no soil leaks out and that the roots don't sit in water," he says. Separate the roots lightly to shake off old soil, fanning them in the bottom of the pot. Place soil around and on top of the roots, and pat down.

Light works as food. The requirements differ – for example, succulents and cacti come from sunny regions and need more direct sun while ferns are typically found in cold regions and need shade.

Watch out for signs that you are over-watering (soft and mushy soil, gnats, yellow lower leaves) or under-watering (wrinkled/drooping leaves).

Edges turning black can indicate low humidity or the presence of a fungus while leaves dropping off can mean that the plant is lacking light.

Yellow leaves are a warning sign – the plant could be too dry or wet, too hot or cold. Brown leaves can indicate too much or too little water, or an overdose of fertiliser.

A mushy stem and dropping leaves most likely are signs of root rot. What when new leaves are much smaller than the older ones? "This means the plants are not getting enough light," Hussaini says. "A plant that is growing but appears dull could just need repotting and a dash of fertiliser while white cottony dots or red/black specks indicate pests and necessitate the use of an insecticide," he adds.

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LOCAL BRAND

Protecting Nandini from merger

The Congress, which had backed the campaign to oppose any efforts to merge Nandini with Amul during the run-up to the Karnataka Assembly polls, has reiterated its stand in the State Budget too by saying that Nandini brand has a sentimental connection with Kannadigas and the government is committed to protecting and nurturing this branding.

"Nandini, with the tagline Quality Excellence from Cow to Consumer, supports livelihood of crores of people," the Budget says.

NEW PROGRAMME

Promoting GI-tagged varieties

The State Budget has proposed to formulate a new programme to promote production, research, marketing and branding of Mysuru mallige (jasmine), Nanjanagudu rasabale (banana) and Mysuru veelyadele (beetle leaf) that have been awarded GI tag. "With special fragrance, taste and flavour, they have a place in people's hearts," the Budget notes. All the three produce are highly popular in Old Mysuru region. However, the cultivation of Nanjanagudu rasabale has come down owing to disease.

IN REMEMBRANCE

In memory of Tejaswi and Kalburgi

To promote and disseminate the literature of renowned littérateur K.P. Poornachandra Tejaswi and his thoughts on environmental conservation to the young generation through the foundation established in his name, the State government will provide ₹2 crore, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced in the Budget.

He also said that a trust will be established in the name of Rastriya Sahitya Academy awardee Dr. M.M. Kalburgi in his memory and for his outstanding contribution to Kannada literature. Dr. Kalburgi was assassinated in 2015.

CELEBRATIONS

Marking 50 years of Karnataka

To mark the completion of 50 years of erstwhile Mysore State being renamed as Karnataka, year-long programmes will be organised under the name 'Hesarayithu Karnataka, Usiragali Kannada' starting from November 1.

The programmes will be focused on Karnataka's history, art, literature and cultural ethos and to create awareness among youth about the essence of Kannada – Kannadiga – Karnataka. The celebrations will be organised throughout the year. The erstwhile Mysore State was renamed Karnataka on November 1, 1973.

NO LOP

Budget without Leader of the Opposition

The State Budget was presented for the first time without a Leader of the Opposition as the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party is yet to appoint its legislature party leader who will become Leader of the Opposition.

It may be noted that the Bharatiya Janata Party, which suffered a humiliating defeat in the Assembly elections, is yet to elect its legislature party leader though more than one-and-a-half months have passed ever since the poll results were announced.

Krishi Bhagya climate resilient scheme to be reintroduced

Krishi Bhagya scheme will be revived in convergence with the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme with an outlay of ₹100 crore. FILE PHOTO

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

Amidst fear of drought looming large over Karnataka, the State Budget 2023-24 presented by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has proposed to reintroduce the erstwhile Congress government's flagship scheme of Krishi Bhagya that seeks to turn dry-land farming into climate resilient through rainwater conservation measures.

The Budget says that the Krishi Bhagya scheme, that had been discontinued by the erstwhile BJP dispensation, would be reintroduced in convergence with the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme with an outlay of ₹100 crore.

However, there are concerns among experts as the allocation for agriculture and horticulture sectors has come down by 1% of the State Budget size. As against the allocation of ₹9,456 crore during the earlier Budget presented by the then Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai in February that was 3% of the total Budget size, the present Budget has allocated only ₹5,860 crore for this sector which accounts for 2% of Budget size. This is expected to hit various ongoing schemes.

Loan scheme continued
Meanwhile, Mr. Siddaramaiah has not only continued the previous government's scheme of increasing the upper ceiling for interest-free short-term loans from ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh, but has also increased the ceiling for medium and short-term loans that are available at 3% interest from ₹10 lakh to ₹15 lakh. The Budget says over 30 lakh farmers would benefit from the loan scheme that has a financial outlay of ₹25,000 crore. The Budget has also provided ₹10 crore for branding of farmers' produce on the lines of Nandini. It has also announced creation of 50 hi-tech harvester hubs for farm mechanisation at a cost of ₹50 crore. For meat lovers, it has proposed to develop animal produce processing and value addition units and modern markets with private participation to ensure supply of protein rich meat.

Irrigation allocation
The allocation for the irrigation sector has come down from 8% of Budget size (₹22,854 crore) in February to 6% of Budget size (₹19,044 crore) now. The Budget has proposed to irrigate 25,948 hectares of land by completing 10 languishing irrigation projects at a cost of ₹ 940 crore. It has also proposed to complete 19 tank filling projects at a cost of ₹ 770 crore.

Section 7(D) of SCSP/TSP Act to be scrapped

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a move hailed by Dalit leaders, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has promised to do away with Section 7 (D) of the Karnataka Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan (Planning, Allocation and Utilisation of Financial Resources) Act 2013, which allowed a certain amount of money to be used in exceptional cases on works that cannot be divided and considered such expenditure as "deemed expenditure."

This was a long-pending demand of several Dalit organisations. A large portion of the total amount had not reached the targeted population and funds were used for general purposes under the provision of section 7(D) of the Act, it was argued. Mr. Siddaramaiah said, "Our government intends to utilize the grants allocated under SCSP/TSP Act, 2013 for the empowerment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes communities only. In this regard, as per the long pending demands of Dalit Organizations and intellectuals, section 7(d) of the Act will be rescinded."

Budget makes clear affirmation that welfare has the pride of place

The government will soon have to confront the question of sustainability of Karnataka's economic growth. With the growth concentrated in Bengaluru, much depends on whether the city can grow fast enough to transfer resources to rest of the State

GUEST COLUMN

Narendar Pani
BENGALURU

The Budget promises to use MGNREGA labour to create more substantial assets. FILE PHOTO

For those wondering if the five guarantees the Congress offered were solely to gain electoral victory or were a part of a more definitive longer-term strategy, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's Budget provides a clear answer.

Rather than merely trying to scramble the resources to cover the five guarantees, Mr. Siddaramaiah has provided a clear affirmation that welfare has the pride of place in the thinking of the Congress government in Karnataka. He has not just provided the financial support for the five guarantees but added some more. There is now insurance for delivery personnel of e-service companies, new toilet complexes in 5,775 schools and 150 colleges, extension of nutritious food schemes for tribal communities, and even standardised grants for temples with no significant earnings.

Who benefits from GST
The Chief Minister justifies this approach not just by citing Basavanna but also through the fact that while much of the GST is collected from the bottom 60% of the population, the economic benefit goes to the top 10%. There is then a moral case for the government to transfer a part of the resources from the rich to the poor. Mr. Siddaramaiah calculates the average benefit per household of the five guarantees and claims they represent the first Universal Basic Income in the country.

The interesting, and unstated, part of this approach is that it faces no compulsion to reduce the glaring inequality. On the contrary, it can only succeed if the inequality provides it sufficient resources to be transferred to the poor. The Budget expects a more buoyant State GST to generate ₹ 22,930 crore more than what was expected in the previous year's Budget, which is 44% of the total expenditure on the five guarantees. If the burden of GST is on the poor and the guarantees are also for the poor, they are paying for much of it themselves.

Path to pursue growth
The rest of the bill for the guarantees (and the additional welfare measures announced in the Budget) has to come from growth. And in the pursuit of growth the Mr. Siddaramaiah government is careful not to threaten existing inequalities. A major challenge of Karnataka's growth is regional inequality, with much of it being concentrated in Bengaluru. The Budget has measures that can be expected to consolidate this regional inequality.

One of the most substantial infrastructure initiatives in the Budget is a 100-acre Technology Innovation Park at Kadugodi in Bengaluru. There is also to be a Mega Industrial Township in government-owned BEML land in the city. There are some other clusters mentioned in the Budget, but they can be expected to pale into insignificance compared to the Bengaluru initiatives. The initiatives in the capital will have the huge benefit of a corporate ethos which is already established in the city.

Moreover, since the government, especially in the BEML case, owns the land, the new infrastructure will be much more cost effective.

The Budget does try to smoothen the roughest edges of inequality by focusing on the efficiency of some of existing welfare measures. There is a promise to use MGNREGA labour to create more substantial assets. It identifies a number of specific assets that MGNREGA labour will be used to develop, including two lakh drought relief works, 50,000 acres of grasslands, 81,000 flood relief works, and the upgrading of 5,000 school premises.

If the land related outcomes increase agricultural activity they will lead to jobs at the lower end of the earning hierarchy. This will be a small dent in Karnataka's challenge of regional inequality.

Sustainability question
The State government will sooner or later have to confront the question of the sustainability of Karnataka's current economic growth.

With the growth concentrated in Bengaluru, much depends on whether the city can grow fast enough to transfer sufficient resources to the rest of the state as a part of the government's welfare strategy.

And as the pressures on the city and its cost of living keep increasing, there may be no guarantee of Bengaluru's sustained high growth.

Vision document to battle financial crisis plaguing energy sector

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

As he announced that over two crore domestic consumers will benefit from the Gruha Jyothi scheme, which will be implemented at an estimated annual cost of ₹13,910 crore, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday highlighted the financial crisis in the energy sector. He said the outstanding loan of electricity companies had increased from ₹51,087 crore in March 2018 to ₹91,911 crore by March 2023.

While placing the blame on the previous government for the dire financial state, he proposed the 'Vision document - 2035' for the revival of the sector.

Along with the improvisation of the financial status of electricity supply companies (escoms), the document is also expected to help with the supply of standard electricity to all the consumers in Karnataka.

Mr. Siddaramaiah further said that the cumulative loss of electricity companies had increased from ₹4,725 crore to ₹17,056 crore between 2018 and 2023. "This clearly portrays the poor administration by the previous government," he said.

He also pointed out that the amount owed by the escoms to various electricity generation (Gencos) and transmission companies had gone up to ₹16,132 crore by March 2023 while it was only ₹11,956 crore in March 2018.

With escoms not making timely payments, even the Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) is facing financial crisis, the Chief Minister said.

NEP to be replaced with State Education Policy

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Keeping the poll promise, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the Budget on Friday said National Education Policy (NEP) would be replaced with a new State Education Policy. He also announced extension of the programme of providing eggs, groundnut chikki and banana to students studying in classes IX and X of government and aided schools along with midday meals, covering 60 lakh students, at a total cost of ₹280 crore.

Allocation comes down
However, compared to the previous Budget, ₹373 crore (1%) of grant has been cut for education sector. Chief Minister has allocated ₹37,857 crore (11% of the total Budget) in this Budget, which was ₹37,960 crore (12%) in the previous one presented by Basavarj Bommai.

In his Budget speech, Mr. Siddaramaiah also referred to the controversial textbook revision and said, "Education should impart the values of fraternity, harmony and coexistence in children. The previous government had introduced certain concepts in the textbooks which were antithetical to these value systems. Measures will be taken in the current year to drop such content from the textbooks."

On the need to scrap NEP, he said, "Uniform Education System does not suit a nation like India which has diverse religions, languages and cultures. A new education policy will be formulated keeping in mind the local social, cultural and economic milieu of the State. The new policy will elevate the higher education standards in the state to the global level and empower our youth to compete globally and gain meaningful employment opportunities."

Bridging language gap
Among initiatives in Higher Education, the Budget proposes re-starting conversional English classes in all government higher education institutions in collaboration with the British Council and Regional Institute of English. To eliminate language barriers in pursuing higher education and to enable university students to write exams in Kannada, the government will translate widely used reference books and syllabi into Kannada.

Better facilities promised for dialysis patients

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Renal patients undergoing dialysis in State-run dialysis centres can now hope for better facilities. The State Budget has proposed to introduce 'single use dialysers' in all the centres at the district and taluk hospitals. This will strengthen the quality of dialysis, doctors said.

Over 4,000 renal patients have been undergoing dialysis in 169 government-run centres across the State since March 2017, when the dialysis scheme was introduced.

However, the quality of service being provided is not up to the mark and the technicians are forced to reuse the dialysers due to short supply by the service provider.

State Health Commissioner Randeep D. said 'single use dialysers' are part of the new tender conditions. Currently, dialysers are being reused almost eight times for the same patient, he said.

Nephrologist Sudarshan Ballal, who is the chairman of Manipal Hospitals, said that single use dialysers would help in control of infections and are more hygienic.

C.N. Manjunath, Director of Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, recommended periodic auditing of the scheme to ensure quality services.

The Budget also proposes to add another 50 dialysis centres taking the total number to 219. An allocation of ₹92 crore will be made for this purpose, the Chief Minister said.

Proposing to continue several existing schemes, the Budget promises to provide necessary equipment and human resources at a cost of ₹70 crore to operationalise upgraded Community Health Centres.

To prevent and control spread of anemia and malnutrition among neonates, children, teenagers, pregnant, lactating mothers and women in reproductive age, a new program to screen, treat and create awareness has been announced. A sum of ₹25 crore has been set aside for this.

Comprehensive health camps will be rolled out in eight districts across four divisions of the State on a pilot basis for detection of diabetes and high blood pressure in patients and to deliver required medicines at their doorsteps.

Kerala teen dies of 'brain-eating amoeba' infection

The Hindu Bureau
ALAPPUZHA

A 15-year-old boy undergoing treatment for primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM), a rare infection of the central nervous system caused by *Naegleria fowleri*, commonly known as 'brain-eating amoeba', died at the Government Medical College Hospital, Alappuzha, on Thursday.

Officials said the patient was admitted to the hospital almost a week ago in a critical condition. The teenager had also contracted leptospirosis, said an MCH official.

PAM infections are not spread from one person to another. Health Minister Veena George said there was no cause for concern.

Petition in Madras HC questions Governor's authority to keep his dismissal order in abeyance

Chief Justice S.V. Gangapurwala and Justice P.D. Audikesavalu have decided to hear this case along with three other petitions, questioning the arrested Minister's continuation in the State Cabinet as he continues to be under judicial custody

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

A new public interest litigation petition has been filed at the Madras High Court, questioning Governor R.N. Ravi's authority to withhold his order dismissing Minister V. Senthilbalaji from the Council of Ministers following his arrest by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) in a money laundering case on June 14 and his judicial custody thereafter.

Chief Justice S.V. Gangapurwala and Justice P.D. Audikesavalu took up the new case for hearing along with the three other petitions that have already been filed questioning the authority of the arrested Minister, now recuperating at a private hospital in Chennai after undergoing a beating heart coronary artery bypass surgery on June 22, to continue in the Cabinet without portfolio.

R.N. Ravi

Senior counsel V. Raghavachari, representing one of the petitioners, said the litigants had no issue with the continuation of Senthilbalaji as an MLA since the Representation of the People Act, 1951, provides for disqualification only if a legislator is convicted in a criminal case and awarded two or more years of imprisonment.

He clarified that the litigants were only against Mr. Senthilbalaji's continuation in the Council of Ministers, that too without portfolio, despite facing a case involving moral turpitude and having been arrested by the ED.

"When a Minister is expected to perform a public duty, how can there be a Minister without portfolio," he wondered.

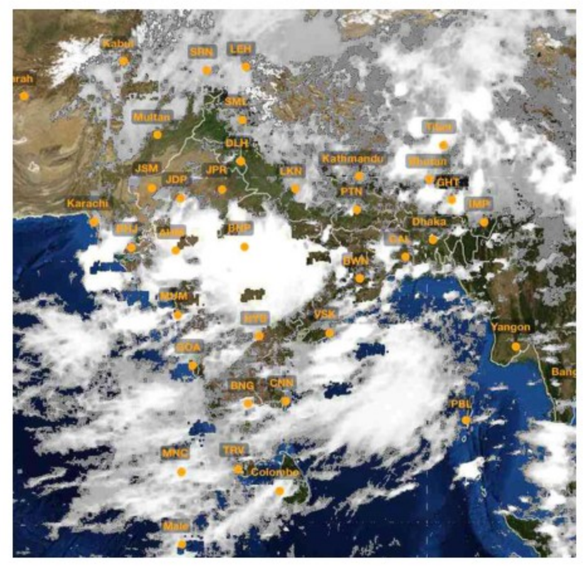
Advocate K. Sakthivel, representing M.L. Ravi of the Desiya Makkal Sakthi Katchi, who filed the current PIL petition, said the High Court had heard the previous PIL petitions, filed against the Minister, on June 26 and adjourned the hearing to July 7.

In the meantime, Mr. Ravi passed an order on June 29, dismissing the Minister. However, the Governor backtracked within hours and kept his order in abeyance. He also decided to seek the Attorney-General's opinion on the issue, as advised by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Attacking this decision, Mr. Sakthivel contended that the Governor had no authority whatsoever to keep his own order in abeyance.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at a few/isolated places over Saurashtra & Kutch, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Sikkim, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, coastal Karnataka, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.8	33.7	26.0	Kozhikode	44	28.9	24.2
Ahmedabad	—	33.5	27.5	Kurnool	0.1	34.5	24.8
Aizawl	0.9	32.6	20.9	Lucknow	4	34.8	28.0
Allahabad	—	33.9	28.4	Madurai	—	35.6	26.6
Bengaluru	0.3	27.5	20.6	Mangaluru	127.6	27.5	23.2
Bhopal	52.6	—	23.5	Mumbai	54	31.1	25.4
Bhubaneswar	5.8	35.6	27.0	Mysuru	10	27.5	20.8
Chandigarh	—	34.8	26.7	New Delhi	2	35.0	26.7
Chennai	—	37.1	29.0	Patna	5.2	34.5	27.2
Coimbatore	3	29.6	22.4	Port Blair	10	30.6	25.4
Dehradun	0.2	31.0	24.4	Puducherry	—	35.4	26.8
Gangtok	54	22.1	18.9	Pune	0.3	29.1	22.8
Goa	46.2	27.6	22.6	Raipur	65	27.5	24.2
Guwahati	18	33.7	25.9	Ranchi	18	30.7	22.8
Hubballi	—	25.0	22.0	Shillong	3	24.3	—
Hyderabad	—	31.9	23.7	Shimla	5	22.8	16.2
Imphal	15	31.0	—	Srinagar	5.7	21.0	16.8
Jaipur	—	33.2	26.6	Thiruvananthapuram	22	30.5	22.9
Kochi	40	29.6	24.0	Tiruchi	—	34.1	27.6
Kohima	21	25.0	18.0	Vijayawada	9	34.2	25.8
Kolkata	20	33.2	27.4	Visakhapatnam	1	32.3	28.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.27	..39	.74	59	84	.....
Bengaluru	...8	..—	.65	23	68	.....
Chennai	...4	146	.53	72	66	.....
Delhi	...4	3	.72	72	...170	.....
Hyderabad	.11	..11	.43	63	69	.....
Kolkata	...6	..15	.13	17	45	.....
Lucknow	...4	..15	.45	58	63	.....
Mumbai	..—	..35	.27	72	90	.....
Pune	132	225	110	55	49	.....
Visakhapatnam	.13	..57	.26	54	...105	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 213 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Sivasagar, Assam recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

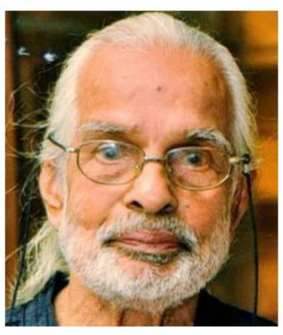
Artist Namboodiri leaves behind a legacy of indelible images

Saraswathy Nagarajan
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Karuvatta Mana Vasudevan Namboodiri, beloved to readers of Malayalam as Artist Namboodiri, passed away on Friday at Kottakkal in Malappuram.

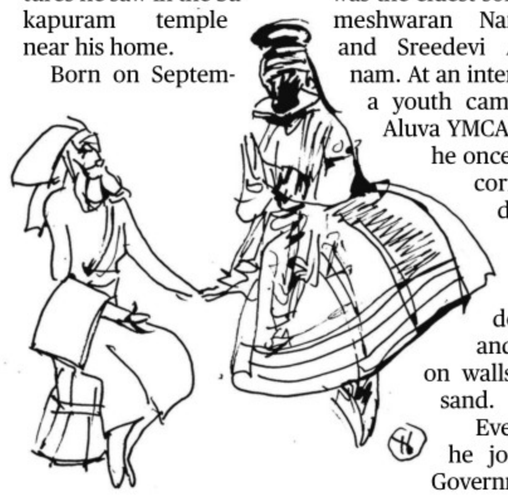
Artist, illustrator, cartoonist, art director and sculptor, he was at home in many realms of art and was master of all. With his passing, a glorious and indelible chapter in visual art of Kerala comes to an end.

His lithe, sweeping, flowing lines created the early images of immortal literary characters. The


Artist Namboodiri, and, right, one of the artist's paintings.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

big-bosomed, wide-hipped women with large eyes, and men with lean torsos, broad shoulders and angular features who peopled his world seem to have been inspired by the sculptures he saw in the Sukapuram temple near his home.

Born on September 13, 1925 at Ponnani in Malappuram, Kerala, he was the eldest son of Parameshwaran Namboodiri and Sreedevi Antharjanam. At an interaction at a youth camp at the Aluva YMCA campus, he once told this correspondent how he could not stop doodling and drawing on walls and on sand.



Eventually, he joined the Government College of Fine Arts in Chennai where he was influenced by the greats of the erstwhile Madras School of Arts, then led by stalwarts such as KCS Panicker and Debi Prasad Roy Chowdhury.

The artist's stint with Kerala's *Mathrubhumi* magazine started with a pocket cartoon, 'Naniyammayum Lokavum', then he became the chosen illustrator of Jnanpith awardee M.T. Vasudevan Nair.

Auteur G. Aravindan reached out to Namboodiri during the making of *Uttarayanam*. In 1974, Namboodiri received the Kerala State Film Award for art direction for the film. He also worked with Aravindan in his movie *Kanchana Seetha*.

A great aficionado of Kathakali and theatre, he had painted several scenes from Kathakali plays in water colours and charcoal.

Over the years, several awards, including the Raja Ravi Varma award (2003) and the Kerala Bala Sahitya Award for best illustration for his work in *Kuttikalude Ramayanam* came his way (2004).

All his life, this gentle genius had been a friend to all those he encountered.

Coimbatore DIG ends life; Stalin expresses shock

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

C. Vijayakumar, Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Coimbatore Range, allegedly died by suicide at his camp office at Red Fields here on Friday. He was 47.

The officer allegedly grabbed his gunman Ravichandran's pistol and shot himself point-blank on the forehead at the portico of the camp office at 6.50 a.m. He was about to leave for the Police Recruits School campus, around 2 km away, to play badminton. He died on the spot, the police said.

After Ravichandran raised the alarm, policemen from the adjacent camp office of the Coimbatore District Superintendent of Police ran to the spot.

They rushed Vijayakumar to the Coimbatore Medical College Hospital (CMCH), where doctors declared him brought dead.

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin expressed shock at the death of Vijayakumar.

Recalling the officer's service to the force in various capacities, including as the Superintendent of Police, Mr. Stalin said his death was a huge loss to the Tamil Nadu police.

He expressed his condolences to the bereaved family and friends.

Vijayakumar joined the service in 2003 as Deputy Superintendent of Police and became an IPS officer in 2009.

(Assistance for overcoming suicidal thoughts is available on the State's health helpline 104, Tele-MANAS 14416 and Sneha's suicide prevention helpline 044-24640050.)

From Page One

CM presents 'guarantee Budget' with promise of welfare for all

Focusing on education sector, Mr. Siddaramaiah termed the NEP as "incompatible" with the federal system and proposed a new education policy keeping in mind the local social, cultural, and economic milieu of the State.

For unemployed youth, a new scheme "Swawalambi Sarathi" was proposed under which youth belonging to SC/ST would be provided 75% subsidy of the loan of ₹4 lakh for purchase of four-wheeler vehicles. For providing social security to the gig workers hired by e-commerce companies, it was proposed to implement an insurance policy of ₹4 lakh to be borne by the government.

The Budget decided to generate revenue through asset monetisation of vacant sites and buildings under the Public Works Department. It proposed three new policies in different sectors --- civil aviation, agro-processing industries, Bengaluru city gas distribution.

Close to a dozen of schemes scrapped by the previous BJP government would be relaunched. They included Krishi Bhagya, 'Arivu' for providing education loan up to ₹1 lakh with 2% interest rate, among others.

The Budget set revenue targets of ₹1,01,000 crore for commercial taxes, ₹36,000 crore for Excise, ₹25,000 crore for Stamp and Registration, ₹11,500 crore for Transport, and ₹9,000 crore for Mines and Geology departments.

A whopping sum of ₹70,427 crore has been set aside for women and child welfare, ₹34,294 crore for SC and ST sub-plan, and ₹5,000 crore for Kalyana Karnataka.

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02.	Value of Works	: Rs. 348.39 Lakhs
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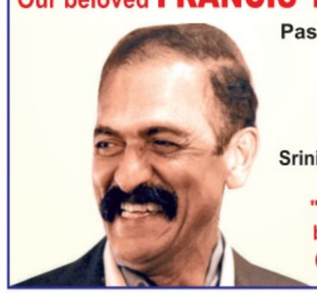
OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SAD DEMISE

Our beloved **FRANCIS THARAKAN** (73) Kengeri



Passed away on 2nd July 2023 in Bangalore.

Deeply Mourned By:
Ancy Francis (wife)
Frank Tharakan (son) &
Srinidhi Sridhar (daughter-in-law)
Bon Tharakan (son)

"We loved him immensely, but God loved him more."

Contact: 9538140561

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

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Ominous signs

India must calibrate its diplomacy on Khalistan issue to better effect

Ahead of planned rallies by pro-Khalistan separatists in the U.S., the U.K., Canada and Australia on July 8 that target Indian diplomatic missions and diplomats, the Indian government has taken steps to speak to officials in these countries for added security and vigilance. The issue was raised by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval in talks with his British counterpart in Delhi on Friday, and was the subject of calls between the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and its counterparts in all partner countries, requesting pre-emptory action. Posters in these countries have billed the protests as "Kill India" and "Khalistan Freedom" rallies, exhorting supporters to march to Indian missions. What is worrying is that the posters sport the photographs of India's top diplomats posted in these countries. The protests – after the attacks on Indian missions, arson attempts and vandalism – indicate a sharp uptick in separatist activity overseas and have left New Delhi concerned. However, they should be of far greater concern to the countries incubating these groups, as they involve their citizens. The rallies planned for Saturday put the respective governments on notice – to ensure adequate protection to Indian diplomatic interests, as obligated under international conventions. In addition, it is a test of their resolve to investigate groups threatening violence, gathering and sharing intelligence on any organisations supporting them to plan or carry out attacks or a terror strike like the 1985 bombing of an Air India flight. Above all, these governments must not use "freedom of speech" tropes as a cover for failing to prevent criminal acts.

While the onus remains on the four countries where pro-Khalistan attacks have increased, New Delhi must also reconsider its public diplomacy on the issue. Repeatedly calling out foreign governments for their failure to respond to Indian requests, freezing diplomatic contact, tit-for-tat retaliatory measures such as downgrading security for the British High Commission might be demonstrative, but hardly diplomatically effective. In addition, with the exception of the U.S, the MEA has regularly summoned top diplomats of the countries named, to démarche them over attacks (there is often no distinction made between violent attacks and graffiti). While the government is justified in raising concerns over the safety of Indian citizens and Indian property, it must leave law and order issues and policing to the sovereign government in that country. New Delhi's vocal protests on behalf of the Indian diaspora and community centres targeted by pro-Khalistan groups, for example, fail to recognise that, most often, the victims and perpetrators are of Indian origin. Given the rising protests and the alarming nature of the threats, the need of the hour is more cooperation, and not brinkmanship, between the governments, and a mechanism to share information, intelligence and discuss solutions to growing violence by such groups.

Truce treaty

Congress seems to have bought peace in Rajasthan by taking Pilot on board

The Congress high command that took stock of preparations for the Rajasthan Assembly polls later this year, on Thursday also managed to put a lid on the prolonged feud between Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his former deputy, Sachin Pilot. In order to bridge the trust deficit between the two leaders, the party announced the reformation of the Rajasthan Public Service Commission and stringent punishment for those who are found to be involved in the leak of question papers that are set for recruitment examinations. Along with the issue of alleged corruption by the previous Vasundhara Raje government of the BJP, Mr. Pilot had made the question paper leak and reforms in the public service commission major flashpoints against his own government. Of course, his main grouse, even if unstated, relates to his own role in a Congress government in Rajasthan. The overtures to the Pilot camp – Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has urged his colleagues to make corruption under the BJP a major poll plank, for instance – have been tempered with praise for the Gehlot government's welfare schemes as well as a stern warning that any partyman taking internal matters outside the party forum would face action. The central leadership has called for a door-to-door campaign on governance successes.

In a State that is known to vote out incumbent governments, Mr. Gehlot is making a bold bid for his re-election by projecting his government as one that is working to provide relief from inflation and other forms of distress. The resultant slew of schemes includes cooking gas cylinders at a subsidised cost of ₹500 and health insurance for every family up to ₹25 lakh. Mr. Gehlot has been touring the State extensively to publicise these schemes, but the intra-party battle including a failed rebellion by Mr. Pilot had become a drag on all these efforts. There were also reports that Mr. Pilot might be considering a future outside the Congress ahead of the Assembly elections. So, when Mr. Pilot asserts that the Congress will do better this time when compared to 2018, when he was State chief, the party can heave a sigh of relief – at least for the moment. Internal unity is a necessary condition for a good campaign, but this is not sufficient. If it is hoping to win a second consecutive term, the Congress must manage candidate selection well, respond effectively to the BJP's strategy which remains unclear now, and communicate well with voters.

Sobriety after the euphoria of the U.S. state visit

M.K. Narayanan

is a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

The euphoria stemming from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to the United States in June is yet to subside. All of India continues to savour the images that marked this highly publicised visit. Those with long memories of U.S.-India relations in the past are, hence, left to wonder whether this is the same U.S. that had let India down in the past at crucial moments.

Two U.S. Presidents in particular, Lyndon B. Johnson in 1963 and Richard Nixon in 1971, are still remembered for their infamous roles in this respect. Johnson for denying aid to India in the wake of China's perfidious attack on India in 1962, and Nixon during the India-Pakistan conflict in 1971 for sending the U.S. Seventh Fleet steaming up the Bay of Bengal in a show of force intended to deter India from supporting the 'liberation struggle' in East Bengal, which ultimately led to the birth of a new nation, Bangladesh.

This time, there was no room, whatsoever, to doubt in which corner the U.S. stands in relation to India. The promise of the transfer of technology in several areas, most conspicuously in terms of producing fighter jet engines for the Indian Air Force, and holding out the promise of the initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) marks a remarkable turn in the American attitude. All this, and with the many more agreements on critical technologies on the anvil, could lead to a quantum jump in India's military and aerospace capabilities.

Many are bound to view this as an attempt by the U.S. to persuade India to accept an alliance status, *vis-à-vis*, the U.S. The fine print on the recent negotiations does not, however, indicate this as a possibility at this time. Strategic ties are certain to attain a new dimension, and the U.S. side certainly hopes it could lead to "a deeper, more effective, and more diverse defence partnership". Yet, and despite India's attractiveness to the U.S. as a huge market for goods, and increasingly as a destination for state-of-the-art military items, there are 'miles to go' before India is viewed as an alliance partner.

Perceptions on what constitutes a successful visit often vary, but all things considered, the Prime Minister's visit to the U.S. this time should be deemed a major success, and as enhancing India's position as a prime defence technological partner of the U.S. It is certain to not only favourably impact India-U.S. relations but also India's standing in the world.

Indian visits then and now

Every Indian Prime Minister is, of course, entitled to his or her place in the sun. A good visit to the U.S. by an Indian Prime Minister is generally viewed as one clear index of India's standing in the comity of nations. It is, hence, tempting to compare Mr. Modi's latest visit with that of other Indian Prime Ministers since Independence. There were visits by Jawaharlal Nehru (he met with Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy), and Lal Bahadur Shastri's visit never happened in the end), while Indira Gandhi's visit to Washington as Prime Minister was a disaster of sorts, with both India and the U.S. having their own versions of what transpired. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit was by all accounts deemed a success, breaking many previous shibboleths. Admittedly, none of them matched the euphoria created by the visit of two latter day Prime Ministers, Manmohan Singh and Mr. Modi.

Only the most foolhardy would possibly attempt a comparison between the visits of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during his tenure, specially the one in 2005, and Mr. Modi's latest endeavour. The question uppermost in everyone's minds would be whether 'ending nuclear apartheid' (imposed on India after the 1974 nuclear tests 'Buddha is smiling'), or the defence technological breakthroughs achieved during the recent visit are more significant for India's future.

The civil nuclear deal marked a shift

Admittedly, the opening up of civil nuclear cooperation between India and the U.S. marked the beginning of a tectonic shift in global affairs at the start of the 21st century, unmatched before or since. Securing a waiver under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and obtaining the approval of the U.S. Congress for the iconic 123 Agreement that paved the way for an India-specific Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) subsequently, were not merely unprecedented, but one time achievements, the like of which have few equals in the annals of world history. As a result, India today has the freedom to maintain a select number of reactors outside IAEA Safeguards, enabling it to utilise them for military purposes. The freedom India currently enjoys for reprocessing and enrichment are other critical outcomes that stemmed from the visit.

What is also interesting to note is that all this was achieved despite the entire U.S. Establishment (with the sole exception of President George Bush) being opposed to these concessions – a testimony to the nature of the personal relationship that existed between then U.S. President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Seldom has such a shift been witnessed in the global arena, due solely to the personal chemistry between leaders of two countries – a testimony to the civilisational attributes of the two leaders at the time.

During Dr. Manmohan Singh's state visit to the U.S. in 2009, the *pièce de résistance* was the exchanges between two of the world's most cerebral leaders at the time, *viz.*, U.S. President Barack Obama and Dr. Manmohan Singh. Mr. Obama's remarks at the start of his private meeting with Dr. Singh, 'You are My Guru', says it all. What followed was an avalanche of results, and there was no obvious quid pro quo expected or sought for. Both in 2005 and in 2009, it was evident that it was India's reputation as a civilisational entity that seemed to weigh with U.S. leaders at the time.

Be cautious, look at history

The United States of the 21st century is certainly different in many respects from the U.S. in the late 20th century. In the euphoria that exists following Mr. Modi's visit, it is, however, desirable for India to be cautious and heed the lessons of history. India certainly is not, at least at this stage, the kind of ally that the U.S. seeks or demands. Moreover, U.S. politics is currently in a state of flux – more so than at most times in the past. The individual preferences of the U.S. President in office and the 'swing factor' in U.S. foreign policy are other aspects that foreign countries, India included, can seldom comprehend adequately. India again is not unfamiliar with the way the U.S. changes its priorities, and friends.

Consequently, and despite the warmth of the reception accorded to Mr. Modi in Washington, India should realise that it cannot at any time, be the kind of ally that the U.S. seeks. Sober leaders on both sides must also understand that the current euphoria in relations notwithstanding, the situation has been dictated due to circumstance rather than conviction. This must not be lost sight of by India in particular. For instance, India cannot possibly be part of an arrangement such as the AUKUS Pact that binds the U.S. with the United Kingdom and Australia. The fundamentals underlying the Quad (India, Japan, Australia and the U.S.) and AUKUS are very different.

India must, instead, use the outcome of the Prime Minister's visit to skilfully function as a 'bridge power'. It is eminently suited to play such a role, and should not be inveigled – through blandishments such as defence ties – to play the role of a subordinate to the U.S. in the politics of the Asia-Pacific.

India's potential should be marshalled to act as a bridge between conflicting parties in the Indo-Pacific, in West Asia and in Europe. This could be the enduring legacy of the Prime Minister's latest visit to the U.S., which has occasioned so much of interest not only in the U.S. and India, but across the world. It is for India to seize the moment and play its rightful role.

While India cannot be the kind of ally that American wants, New Delhi must use the outcome of the Prime Minister's successful state visit to skilfully function as a 'bridge power'

The long road to finding true peace in Yemen

Talmiz Ahmad

is a former diplomat

In April this year, just as the Saudi-led war in Yemen completed eight years, a diplomatic delegation from the kingdom reached Sanaa airport for talks with its Houthi enemies. Some details of the talks soon became public: building on the year-long ceasefire, the two sides agreed to a six-month truce, to be followed by talks over three months to agree on a two-year "transition" period when the details of the Yemeni state that would emerge after the war would be finalised. The Houthis asked that the blockade of Sanaa airport and Hodeidah port be eased and the kingdom to pay the salaries from the country's oil revenues. An immediate exchange of prisoners was also agreed to.

Death and destruction in Yemen

Saudi Arabia, leading a coalition of some Arab forces, had initiated military operations on March 26, 2015, to prevent the Houthis, a Shia militia representing the marginalised Zaidi community and aligned with Iran, from taking control of Yemen, with which the kingdom shares a porous 1,400-km border.

However, the war has ground to a stalemate, with the Houthis controlling the capital and the principal port, Hodeidah. The coalition controls the sea and the sky and large parts of the south, thus preventing essential food, medical and energy supplies from reaching the population. With a death toll of about 4,00,000, including 85,000 children, and several million displaced, Yemen is in the throes of a severe humanitarian crisis: 80% of its people (over 20 million) need assistance, while six million are on the brink of starvation.

Given the estimated expenditure of about $60 billion in the eight-year conflict, Saudi Arabia has been anxious to obtain a face-saving exit. The Saudi-Iran accord brokered by China in March provided this opportunity. There are reports that Iran has agreed to curtail military supplies to the Houthis and facilitate a peace process, thus opening the doors for the Saudi-Houthi engagement in April.

What has been achieved so far is the exchange of prisoners and the easing of the blockade on Sanaa and Hodeidah; humanitarian aid has come in and flights have taken Yemeni pilgrims, including Houthi leaders, to Mecca for the Haj.

Challenges to the peace process

Challenges coming in the way of the peace process include the Houthi insistence that the kingdom pay the salaries of all government officials, including armed forces personnel, for the last few years from Yemen's oil revenues. The Saudis are hardly enthusiastic about funding their former enemies. The Houthis are also seeking "compensation" from the Saudis for war damage; the latter are willing to consider contributing to reconstruction, but baulk at the idea of "compensation".

The Houthis are also reluctant to engage with the eight-member Saudi-supported Presidential Leadership Council (PLC) that heads the internationally-recognised Yemeni government. They insist on direct negotiations with the Saudis, while the latter wish to be "mediators" between the Yemeni factions.

The crucial point relating to the Yemen scenario is that the Houthis have won the war and the Saudis are desperate to get out of the country. Thus, the Houthis have the upper hand in the negotiations *vis-à-vis* the Saudis and the PLC set up by them. Even as Saudi involvement with Yemen decreases, the PLC will lose its standing and credibility and open the country, particularly the northern areas, to Houthi control.

But there is another matter that muddies the Yemen scenario. The Southern Transitional Council (STC), a United Arab Emirates (UAE)-backed movement based in Aden, wants the southern provinces that constituted the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY), an independent communist country from 1967 to 1990, to once again become an independent state. A UAE academic has caused considerable disquiet in Yemeni circles by suggesting possible names for the new entity: "Arab Southern State" or "Arab Hadhramaut State".

This reflects the competing geopolitical interests of Saudi Arabia and the UAE in Yemen. The UAE's control over ports in south Yemen, Eritrea and Somaliland, as also the island of Socotra in the Gulf of Aden and Perim Island at the mouth of the Bab al-Mandab, has already given it a dominant geopolitical and commercial position in the western Indian Ocean. It is backing the STC's independence agenda to retain these advantages.

Saudi Arabia, on the other hand, is seeking a united Yemen so that it can assert influence over the south Yemeni provinces of Hadhramaut and Al-Mahra: Hadhramaut shares an 800-km border with the kingdom, while Al-Mahra could provide an oil pipeline to Saudi Arabia to the Indian Ocean, bypassing the Strait of Hormuz. Hence, the kingdom has sponsored its own Hadhramaut National Council that rejects the independence agenda of the STC and is content with autonomy in a united Yemen.

Recent reports also suggest that Saudi Arabia, anxious to leave Yemen, might accept a north-south division but would want to elbow the UAE out and itself control Aden and the southern areas.

Another complicating feature is that, despite the Saudi-Iran bonhomie, Iran may be expected to maintain ties with the triumphant Houthis, retain its influence in Yemen, and even consolidate its presence in the Red Sea.

Thus, despite the cessation of hostilities in the war-ravaged country, rivalries between the diverse Yemeni factions and the competing interests of regional powers will ensure that peace and stability will remain a long way off.

Despite truce talks, Yemen's outlook remains grim

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Uniform Civil Code

The article by the former Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu (Editorial page, "India needs a uniform civil code", July 7) lacks supporting data to substantiate his argument that the "absence of a UCC has... served to perpetuate inequalities..." Another of the arguments, that a lack of the UCC has been "a hindrance in the nation's progress towards social harmony, economic and gender justice" is equally contestable. Hindus are governed by a common civil law. Has it helped in bringing in greater social harmony between Dalits and the upper classes of the majority community? Economic inequalities have to be addressed by the state's affirmative actions. The law alone does not act as a leveller. Mr. Naidu's propositions are deeply flawed and are apparently intended to deflect the country's attention from the more serious issues that need to be addressed.

T.R. Bhat,
Mangaluru

Defamation case

I write this letter as a senior advocate and former Union Law Minister. The judgment of the Gujarat High Court in the Rahul Gandhi defamation case is open to serious legal challenge in the Supreme Court of India on several grounds. It is hoped that the highest court of the land will see merit in the appeal, particularly on the ground of harsh consequences and disproportionality of the sentence, and reverse the High Court judgment. The public purpose of law is best subserved through its benign application that advances justice in a holistic appreciation of the cause before the court and is in accord with the felt sensitivities of the nation. On the question of Rahul Gandhi's disqualification as Member of the Lok Sabha, the overwhelming national sentiment supports his reinstatement. The top court will hopefully do justice in the case, so that it is not only done but is also seen to be done.

Ashwani Kumar,
New Delhi

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

The infinite variety of custom

The Prime Minister's push for a uniform civil codes has led to alarm among tribal communities in different regions of the country. **Rahul Karmakar** and **Abhinay Lakshman** report from the north-eastern States and Jharkhand on the worry that customs and age-old practices recognised by law would soon be under threat

Every three years, the Oraon tribal people of Masmano, a village located about 40 kilometres from Ranchi in Jharkhand, gather at their Sarna *sthal* (a Sal grove where villagers worship *sarna* or nature). One villager – man, woman, or child – is chosen at random and blindfolded. A rice sieve is tied to their arm, with a stick protruding outward. The worship begins. The stick leads the blindfolded villager through Masmano. The villager finally stops in front of one house. The head of that house, a man, becomes the *pahan* or the principal priest of the village.

This is how *pahans* have been chosen at most Oraon villages in Jharkhand for as long as anyone can remember. The village picks people to occupy the positions of *mahto, panbhara, kotwar,* and *munda* in a similar manner. These positions together comprise the *akhada*, the village's highest decision-making body. It is empowered by the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act or PESA Act, 1996, to use the "customary mode of dispute resolution" for disputes related to land, family, and marriage, among others.

"This will be under threat if the [Narendra] Modi government brings in a Uniform Civil Code (UCC)," explains Rajnish Oraon of the Adivasi Samanway Samiti, a civil society group working for tribal rights. At dusk, he is addressing the villagers of Masmano, who have returned from their farms and have gathered under a mango tree.

While Prime Minister Narendra Modi is pushing for a UCC and the 22nd Law Commission has sought views from public and religious organisations on the subject, Jharkhand is at the forefront of opposing it. Tribal groups have asked the Governor to intervene on the issue. Some of them have been travelling from village to village gathering support for their cause.

Rajnish Oraon, a field worker for the Adivasi Samanmay Samiti, speaks to Oraon villagers at Masmano, a village located about 40 km from Ranchi. MANOB CHOWDHARY

A way of life

Tribal villages fear that significant parts of their way of life would be undone if a UCC is put in place. "We have had a system that has worked not unlike our Constitution," says Bandhan Tigga, a Sarna Dharm Guru and vocal advocate for a Sarna code. (A separate Sarna code in the Census is the key to a distinct identity for tribal communities as without it, they are classified as Hindus or Muslims or Christians.) "At the village level, the five post-holders are the deciding authority in matters of disputes. The next court of appeal comprises the respective *padhas*." A *padha* is a unit representing a group of villages. A group of seven villages would have a seven-*padha* committee as the next court of appeal. *Padhas* can be of 7, 12, or 21 villages each. Beyond this is the 40-*padha* committee, which is the largest unit of Oraon villages in an area. Similar systems exist among the 32 tribal communities of Jharkhand.

Shyama Munda, 28, is a ward member of the Navatoli village in Bero block outside Ranchi. Her husband, Govinda Munda, runs a grocery store under the biggest peepul tree in the village. "I got married when I was 19. Govinda's parents had died. We lived with his brother and sister-in-law, who put us through hell. In 2018, we decided to separate from them, but half of Govinda's father's land belonged to him. I called the Gram Sabha and claimed the land as my own since I had married into the Munda family. The decision was in our favour," she says.

She tills the land and operates all the farm machinery. However, Shyama cannot bequeath this land to her daughters because on paper it would still belong to the Mundas. Once Shyama and Govinda die, the land will go back to the sons of Govinda's brother. "It would have been nice if I could have claimed my father's property," she says. But if she were to even broach the subject of a UCC in a village meeting, there would be pandemonium, she says.

Neelmani Oraon, 30, from Masmano says women have not had the right to claim their father's property. But this is "balanced" by the fact that they can stake claim to their husband's property. "If we start claiming our father's property, our husbands' sisters will also claim what is rightfully ours," she argues.

Rajnish says, "Most tribes in Jharkhand have a patrilineal line of succession. It's the case with our tribe too. Do you want to allow daughters to claim their father's land? What will happen if non-tribal people and people of other religions trap our women to grab land?" He fears that once the power of their customary practices is lost, the Oraons will be considered Hindus.

Meanwhile, tribal welfare organisations linked to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh have found themselves in a tricky spot. Outfits like the Vanvasi Kalyan Kendra, which have been holding elaborate drives across Jharkhand to convince tribal people to mark their religion as Hindus, are doubtful about the position they want to take on the UCC. Sukhi Oraon, the VKK chief in Jharkhand, says, "UCC is a good thing, but tribal culture cannot be touched."

The tribal groups of Jharkhand believe that civil courts are too cumbersome and inaccessible. "If I had gone to court, I would probably still not have possession of the land that I fought for. The dispute was settled with the decision of the Gram Sabha (which followed from the Munda customary practices)," says Shyama.

Tradition and law

Special legislation such as the PESA Act, 1996; the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908; and the Santhal Parganas Tenancy Act, 1876, recognise such customary practices in Jharkhand, which are protected under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution. There also judicial precedents which recognise customary practices and authorise lower courts to make decisions on their basis.

> We cannot let our traditional system be affected by a common code that is likely to be drafted on the basis of the practices of the majority patriarchal society
>
> **PYNIAID SING SYIEM**
> Chief executive member, Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council

Pooja (name changed to protect privacy), an Oraon who had married as per her community's customary practices, had filed for divorce in the family court in 2021 on grounds of adultery. The court said that since Oraon customary practices are not codified, it could not have jurisdiction over it. However, when she approached the Jharkhand High Court, a Division Bench not only recognised the *padha* system of dispute resolution, but also directed the family court to decide the divorce matter as per the community's customary practices.

Advocate R. Katyayan, who represented Pooja, says, "Once we were able to prove that the customary practices of separation were performed as per Oraon customary practices, we could secure the divorce." Katyayan is now known as '*Khatiyan* (record of registry)' because of the number of land dispute cases that he has taken up for Scheduled Tribes, where the question of customary practices keeps propping up.

At his chamber in the Bar Association building in Ranchi, Katyayan says, "[If a UCC is put in place], there would be significant doubt cast on many precedent-setting judgments that have recognised customary practices. And more broadly, all law is based on some custom. What will happen to that principle? There are liberal provisions of land transfer in legislation such as the Chhota Nagpur Tenancy Act and Santhal Parganas Act, which are based on customary practices. Land can be transferred to any Scheduled Tribe person, regardless of gender, clan or tribe. That is why it is important to ask what the specifics and scope of a UCC would be."

Matters of inheritance

There have been voices of concern in other regions as well. The sharpest protests against a UCC in the north-east emerged from Nagaland, Meghalaya, and Mizoram. Many tribal bodies have raised what they claim is the unconstitutionality of a UCC in the presence of protections enshrined in Articles 371A (special provision with respect to Nagaland) and 371G (special provision with respect to Mizoram) of the Constitution of India. A UCC could also come in conflict with the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution (which facilitates the establishment of autonomous district councils in Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura), they say.

In April 2022, the Supreme Court agreed with the observation of the Gauhati High Court that, according to Mizo customary law, inheritance of property "depends upon the question as to whether a person supported the deceased in his old age or not".

This observation was similar to that of a Mizoram district council court in February 2006. That case pertained to P.S. Dahrawka, his wife Kaithuami, and their seven daughters and son. When Dahrawka died in 1978, his youngest daughter, Thansangi Huha, who was divorced, went to live with her mother. The couple's only son, Thanhnuna, passed away in 1996. Their daughters, granddaughters, and Thanhnuna's wife Ralliani and their daughters Laldinpuii and Lalmuanpuii all went to court following a property dispute. Citing sections of Mizo customary law, the district council court said there was ample scope for distribution of the property in a fair and reasonable manner although the son was entitled to inherit the father's property according to the same law.

It also said that inheritance depends on the responsibilities carried out by the legal heir while noting that daughters other than Thansangi were not entitled to any share of the property since they were married. Thansangi's share was assured because she had "looked after her mother till her death", the court said, and considered Dahrawka's granddaughter Lalmuanpuii eligible for inheritance because she was unmarried.

> [If a UCC is put in place], there would be significant doubt cast on many judgments that have recognised customary practices. And more broadly, all law is based on some custom. What will happen to that principle?
>
> **R. KATYAYAN**
> Advocate

Later, a Supreme Court Bench observed that if a Mizo natural heir does not support their parents, that person would not be entitled to inheritance. "It has further been held that even if there is a natural heir, a person who supports the person until his death could inherit the properties of that person," the Bench said.

"Social practices vary from community to community, but the best practices and aspects of customary laws can be accommodated when a common code is prepared without affecting traditional systems," says Lallungmuana, who teaches sociology at Aizawl's Pachhunga University College.

The Bodo community of Assam has similar traditional norms of inheritance. According to a 2017 paper published by Bodoland University's Oinam Ranjit Singh in the *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, a Bodo inheritor is duty-bound to perform the last rites of the parents, and in case of the death of one of them, take care of the surviving parent and other survivors. The inheritor is also supposed to pay off the debts of the deceased parents.

But the property of the deceased "passes to the next legitimate heir who can successfully perform the duty of the inheritor," if the inheritor fails to discharge duties to the satisfaction of society or fails to perform the duty prescribed by customs and tradition.

Pai Dawe, the former president of the Nyishi Indigenous Faith and Cultural Society, says the community-based systems of settling disputes in Arunachal Pradesh are "more democratic" than those of modern-day courts. He cites the Kebang system of the Adi community, which mostly inhabits the central part of Arunachal Pradesh, as an example. A self-governing institution, the Kebang is a village council comprising elderly members considered experts in traditional knowledge. It is recognised as a "village authority" under the Assam Frontier (Administration of Justice) Regulation, 1945, and was lauded by former Chief Justice of India, Altamas Kabir, for covering the judicial needs of tribal areas.

"Unlike the formal judicial system, where one party is always the loser, everyone is a winner in the Kebang system. The parties in dispute organise a community feast and perform rituals so that their animosity does not continue after settlement. The village headman is not necessarily a member of the jury in this system. Senior experts can be hired or invited from neighbouring villages to settle critical cases such as murder, for the sake of neutrality," Dawe says.

'You cannot impose change'

In Nagaland, tribal organisations feel that "one code for one country" undermines the Constitution. However, as history teacher Adani Ngullie points out, patriarchal customary laws make it difficult for Naga women to inherit land although some parents in urban areas have started bequeathing a share of their property to their daughters.

In Meghalaya, it is the opposite: daughters inherit ancestral property from their parents.

Meghalaya is home to three major matrilineal communities - Garo, Khasi, and Jaintia. The Khasi customary law vests the right of inheritance on the *khatduh,* or youngest daughter. She also has to perform religious ceremonies, take care of her parents, and look after other family members who are unable to earn for themselves. But she is not the owner of the property and can sell it only after getting consent from her maternal uncle.

"We cannot let our traditional system be affected by a common code that is likely to be drafted on the basis of the practices of the majority patriarchal society," says Pyniaid Sing Syiem, the chief executive member of the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council.

While the Council has decided to reconstitute the select committee for examining the Khasi Inheritance of Property Bill, 2021, which envisages "equitable distribution" of parental property among siblings of the Khasi community, experts say communities must decide to change in their own time.

A section of Khasi men has also been campaigning for children to adopt the surname of their fathers. Among the matrilineal Khasis, lineage is traced through the mother.

In Jharkhand too, Dev Kumar Dhan, the Convener of the Adivasi Samanway Samiti, who had fought the last Assembly election from Mandar on a Bharatiya Janata Party ticket, says, "You cannot impose change on communities. They will change when they feel the need to. There is no way that the Adivasi people of Jharkhand are ready for something like this. We have a history of our leaders fighting for our land. Any imposition might lead to dire consequences."

Social worker Dayamani Barla, who has for decades fought against dilutions of land laws that intend to alienate tribal communities from their land, says a UCC in any form would push the people to "an extreme corner." Her organisation, the Adivasi Moolwasi Jameen Raksha Manch, is urging people to write to the 22nd Law Commission opposing the UCC. "We will fight the UCC tooth and nail," she says.

Shayama Munda, a ward member of the Navatoli village, drives a tractor to an agricultural field in Bero. MANOB CHOWDHARY

From Page One

Gujarat HC refuses relief to Rahul Gandhi

Given this backdrop, a refusal to stay the conviction would not in any way result in injustice to the applicant, the court noted. "The impugned order passed by the appellate court [in Surat] is just, proper and legal, and does not call for any interference. However, it is hereby requested the learned district judge concerned to decide the criminal appeal on its own merits and in accordance with law as expeditiously as possible," the HC said.

The court also disagreed with Mr. Gandhi's submission that the offence for which he was convicted was not serious, with the judge noting that his conviction was a "serious matter affecting a large segment of the society and needs to be viewed by this court with the gravity and significance it commands". The court maintained that it was not an "individual-centric defamation case", but something which affected a "large section of the society".

"The offence of Section 499 (dealing with defamation) can certainly be considered to be a serious offence of having a large public character thereby affecting the society at large in a given case wherein a large number of persons of the society have been defamed," the HC order said.

'Disappointed' Congress says it will move SC

"The whole purpose of the 'defamation' case against Mr. Rahul Gandhi was to disqualify him from Parliament. Everything that followed is an attempt to justify the disqualification," former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram alleged on Twitter.

Addressing a press conference at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) headquarters, Congress spokesperson and Senior Advocate Abhishek Singhvi said, "People can see what is happening and how an entire cottage industry has been unleashed against one individual."

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge took to Twitter to allege that the BJP has used "lies" as part of a political conspiracy to get Mr. Gandhi suspended from Parliament and asserted that the Congress leader has been fighting for the truth and will continue his fight.

"...Rahul *ji* is a fierce voice that takes the Modi government head-on. No force can silence him, the truth will triumph and justice will ultimately prevail," party general (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said.

The Congress plans to observe a *maun satyagraha* on July 12 in front of Mahatma Gandhi statues across the country.

Central forces pour in; Bengal set to vote today

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) is contesting 42,000 seats, and the Congress is contesting for about 14,000 seats, while independent candidates have filed about 20,000 nominations for the rural polls. Polling will be held across 61,636 polling booths, using ballot papers.

Just hours before voting was set to begin, there was frantic activity at the State's Election Commission on Friday regarding the deployment of Central forces. As per the orders of the Calcutta High Court, 822 companies of Central forces (involving about 65,000 personnel) will be deployed across the polling booths along with an equal number of State police personnel.

Till Friday afternoon, only 585 companies of Central forces had arrived in the State. In certain cases, Central forces were airlifted to the State so that they could be pressed into deployment at the polling booths by Saturday morning. The Commission has come up with the formula of deploying one member of the Central forces alongside each member of the State armed police.

Meanwhile, the Calcutta High Court set aside a petition by the Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari seeking directions against the order by the State Election Commission that has restricted his movement to the area where he is a voter.

Balasore train collision: CBI arrests 3 officials

As reported in *The Hindu* earlier, a fault in the wiring in a location box near Bahanaga Bazaar railway station had gone undetected by the Signal and Telecom (S&T) staff. The location box has cables that control signalling functions.

The Commission of Railway Safety conducted the inquiry and noted in its report that the rear collision had happened due to certain "lapses in the signalling-circuit-alteration" at a north signal cabin of the Bahanaga Bazaar railway station. Irregularities in the execution of signalling work linked to the replacement of the electric lifting barrier at the level crossing gate 94 were allegedly detected.

The inquiry team had also examined the notes logged in the data logger device from 3 p.m. to 11.58 p.m. on June 2, to reconstruct the sequence of events. As it turned out, about five hours after the accident, Mr. Mahanta had allegedly come to know from the test room that the indication of the point was still showing normal, despite the fact that the point machines were damaged.

I am firmly with the BJP, says Pankaja Munde

Shoumojit Banerjee
PUNE

Reiterating that she was firmly in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), party national secretary Pankaja Munde on Friday refuted speculation of her having met Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi in Delhi.

"Since last few days, reports have been circulating of me joining the Congress. This is completely false. I have been a dedicated party worker for the last 20 years. Being the daughter of [late BJP stalwart] Gopinath Munde, betrayal does not run in my blood," said Ms. Munde, speaking to presspersons in Mumbai.

She said she had not met the Gandhi family personally in her life while warning she would file a defamation case against the local news channel for airing factually incorrect news that she had met the Congress leaders and hinting she was en route to joining the Congress party.

She further said that she would be taking a two-month break from hustle and bustle of politics in order to "introspect."

Ajit's faction brushes off NCP working committee decision

Meeting chaired by Sharad Pawar in Delhi is against the party constitution and its resolutions don't apply to us, says Praful Patel; he questions Jayant Patil's right to serve disqualification notices

Shoumojit Banerjee
PUNE

Staking claim: Ajit Pawar (right) with NCP leader Praful Patel during a press conference in Mumbai on Friday. PTI

Contending that there was "no split" within the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), rebel NCP leader Praful Patel on Friday said that Maharashtra Deputy CM Ajit Pawar had been "unanimously elected" as NCP president on June 30 in the presence of a majority of the party MLAs and rejected the decision of a party working committee meeting chaired by NCP chief Sharad Pawar to expel leaders of the rebel faction.

Mr. Patel, speaking to presspersons at the Vidhan Bhavan in Mumbai, flanked by Mr. Ajit Pawar and other rebel leaders by his side, said that more than 40 MLAs had supported Mr. Ajit Pawar's nomination as NCP president following which their faction had staked claim to the party name and symbol from the Election Commission (EC).

"The party had held a meeting on June 30 in the presence of many MLAs and MLCs at 'Devgiri' [Mr. Ajit Pawar's Mumbai residence]. In that meeting, Ajit Pawar was unanimously elected as NCP president. I was appointed as national working president by him [Mr. Ajit Pawar. The same day we had given a petition to EC in Delhi, along with affidavits of more than 40 MLAs informing the EC about Ajit Pawar's appointment and staking claim to the party name and symbol," Mr. Patel said.

He further said that the working committee meeting chaired by Mr. Sharad Pawar in Delhi on Thursday went against the internal party constitution and that its decisions did not apply to the rebel faction.

Mr. Patil questioned the right of NCP State chief and Mr. Sharad Pawar loyalist Jayant Patil to serve a disqualification notice to Mr. Ajit Pawar and other rebel NCP leaders including himself when the appointment of the State chief [Mr. Patil] itself had been on an *ad hoc* basis without due elections as per the NCP's constitution.

"We are not splitting the NCP. We are only saying that the majority of MLAs are behind Ajit Pawar and that we should be recognised as the party...There were no internal elections within the NCP for many years. The Maharashtra president [Mr. Jayant Patil] himself was appointed on an *ad hoc* basis. As per our [NCP's] constitution, Jayant Patil is not our State president. So, on what basis can he file a disqualification petition against us? Only the EC can decide with whom the party stands and which faction has the numbers," said Mr. Patel.

On Thursday, Mr. Sharad Pawar had chaired a meeting of the NCP working committee after which he said that the committee had "full faith and confidence" in him and had approved of his decision to expel "Praful Patel, Sunil Tatkare and nine NCP MLAs [including Mr. Ajit Pawar] who have joined hands with the BJP".

Neelam Gorhe defects from Uddhav camp to Shinde bloc

Shoumojit Banerjee
PUNE

In a major setback for the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT), veteran Shiv Sena leader Neelam Gorhe, who is Deputy Chairperson of the Maharashtra Legislative Council, joined Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Sena faction on Friday.

Ms. Gorhe, who has been associated with the party for over 25 years, is the third MLC to defect to the ruling camp since Mr. Shinde's intra-party revolt in June last year.

"The Shiv Sena under Eknath Shinde's leadership is the official Sena. The party is heading in the right direction under Mr. Shinde's leadership. Be it the cadre or leaders, everyone is losing confidence in Uddhav Thackeray's leadership," said Ms. Gorhe, who joined the Shinde faction in the presence of the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis.

Ms. Gorhe's exit brings down the strength of the Sena (UBT) legislators to eight from its previous tally of 11.

BJP welcomes HC verdict in defamation case against Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Friday welcomed the Gujarat High Court's order rejecting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's petition to stay his conviction in a criminal defamation case over the Modi surname remark, with BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad stating that it had become a "chronic habit" of the Congress leader to "abuse and defame" leaders and organisations.

Mr. Gandhi was convicted for criminal defamation by a court in Surat earlier this year on a plea filed by BJP MLA Purnesh Modi in connection to a speech the Congress leader made in Karnataka during the 2019 Assembly election.

He said also said that the matter would have ended if Mr. Gandhi had offered an apology. He noted that there were seven or eight defamation cases against the former Congress president.

Unproductive politics to divert people's attention: AAP

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Friday came out in support of Rahul Gandhi and accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of indulging in "unproductive politics" to divert people's attention from real issues, after the Gujarat High Court dismissed Congress leader's plea seeking stay on his conviction in a defamation case over the Modi surname remark.

On the draw

How definite is 'Modi' as a 'collection of persons'?

NEWS ANALYSIS

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The fight for relief in the Rahul Gandhi criminal defamation case in the Supreme Court will revolve around the question whether the term 'Modi' is an identifiable and definite group or collection of persons.

The Gujarat High Court has held that the 'Modi' community or surname is a "well-defined identifiable and suable class". In fact, Justice Hemant Prachchhak, in his 125-page judgment, said Mr. Gandhi's offence is all the more serious because his "thief" remarks affected a large section of society and not just Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"The defamation alleged was of a large identifiable class and not just an individual... the conviction partakes the character of an offence affecting a large section of the public, and by definition, the society at large, and not just a case of an individual-centric defamation case," the judge expounded.

Mr. Gandhi, who faces a two-year sentence for criminal defamation, has argued that "authentic literature shows that the word 'Modi' does not indicate any definite group of persons".

Mr. Gandhi said the complainant's claim that 13 crore people belong to the Modi community was a "mockery of law" as it would mean anyone could file for defamation. The surname 'Modi' is used even within the Muslims and Parsis besides a number of Hindu castes, Mr. Gandhi's lawyers had contended.

Explanation 2 to Section 499 of the IPC provides that criminal defamation extends to a "collection of persons". But the "collection of persons" should be clearly identifiable and definite. It should be "boundaried" and devoid of "woolly edges", the SC said in its 2016 *Subramanian Swamy* judgment.

The top court's 1965 verdict in *Sahib Singh Mehra versus State of Uttar Pradesh* case defines the contours of the phrase "collection of persons" in Explanation 2. The top court held that "a collection of persons must be identifiable in the sense that one could, with certainty, say that this group of particular people has been defamed, as distinguished from the rest of the community".

PM to lay foundation stone for Kazipet unit

The Hindu Bureau
KAZIPET

The Indian Railways' requirement for carrying freight is 30,000 wagons, but the four existing manufacturing units across the country make 23,000 wagons leaving a gap of about 7,000. Hence, the Kazipet unit with a capacity to make 2,400 wagons will be able to bridge the gap considerably, informed South Central Railway General Manager Arun Kumar Jain on Thursday.

The Railways proposed to increase the freight-carrying capacity from 1,650 million tonnes to 3,000 million tonnes, doubling the capacity necessitating the requirement of more number of wagons, he pointed out at a press conference at the upcoming site.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be virtually laying the foundation stone from a nearby public meeting venue for the ₹521 crore unit which is expected to be ready within two years for production, on Saturday. Providing direct employment for about 1,200 workers, during the first year the production capacity by the first ever such unit for Telangana will be 1,200 wagons and rolling stock of more than 40 varieties.

Baghel govt. a model of corruption: Modi

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

Hitting out at Chhattisgarh's Congress government for corruption and unfulfilled election promises, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday called the party a big *panja* (hand) that stood like a high wall between the State and its development.

Mr. Modi was addressing a rally at the Science College ground here after inaugurating and laying foundation stones for development projects worth around ₹7,600 crore. This was his first visit to the State since taking over as PM for a second term in 2019.

Describing the Chhattisgarh government as a "model of corruption and misgovernance", the PM added that it had become an ATM for the Congress. He said this is why leaders from Chhattisgarh were given crucial responsibilities in elections of other States.

He also said the Opposition's attempt to forge an anti-BJP front was strange because those who were usually critical of each other were coming together, but this front did not faze him.

Gita Press a living faith, no less than a temple, says PM Modi

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Attending the closing ceremony of the centenary celebrations of the Gita Press in Gorakhpur, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday described the publishing house as "not less than any temple". The publisher is "guiding humanity" through its work, he said.

The Prime Minister added the government has accorded the Gandhi Peace Prize to Gita Press on completing the 100 years and highlighted the emotional attachment of Mahatma Gandhi with the Gita Press.

Lesson on wheels: Narendra Modi interacting with students in Vande Bharat Express, in Gorakhpur on Friday. ANI

The Prime Minister, who is on a two-day visit to Uttar Pradesh, also flagged off Vande Bharat Express trains and laid the foundation stone of Gorakhpur Railway Station redevelopment work.

While flagging off the Vande Bharat trains, he described them as a boon to middle class.

Union govt. holds back-door talks with Kukis in New Delhi

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Centre has assured Kuki groups that those guilty of committing violence in Manipur will face the law, but made it clear that a political solution can only be achieved after normalcy returns in the State.

Members of the Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum and the Manipur Tribal Forum Delhi met Intelligence Bureau (IB) Director Tapan Kumar Deka on Friday at North Block, the Home Ministry's offices in New Delhi. The meeting is among a series of back-channel talks which the Centre is pursuing with civil society groups from both the Kuki and Meitei communities. A peace committee to be headed by the Manipur Governor is yet to take-off.

Fresh violence

On Friday, four people, including a police commando, were killed in fresh violence and several others were injured in Bishnupur district. Suspected armed miscreants fired toward the Phougakchao Ikhai Awang Leikai and Kwakta area around 1 a.m."However, police and security forces rushed and repelled the miscreants. It is learnt that five suspected armed miscreants sustained bullet injuries, out of which two succumbed to injuries," police said.

A source who attended the meeting of the Kuki groups with IB officials said that the Centre was working on long-term and short-term solutions. The Union government is engaged in talks with 24 Kuki insurgent groups who have been demanding a separate administration for the community.

"The IB chief requested us to maintain normalcy and that a political solution can be achieved quicker if the violence ends. We said that the Meitei should act like a big brother and stop the attacks on Kuki villages first," the source said, adding that the Kuki groups had provided IB officials with a list of 96 villages in Churachandpur that are most vulnerable.

The government had deployed Central armed police forces and the army in these "buffer zones" in the foothills. "The officials said they will deploy more forces in the vulnerable areas. Civilians should disarm first," said the source. More than 4,000 sophisticated weapons have been stolen from police armouries; a little over 1,100 weapons have been recovered so far.

People pained by PM's silence on Manipur violence, say Left MPs

GUWAHATI

People in Manipur have lost faith in the N. Biren Singh government and are pained by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's silence on the ethnic conflict in the State, a delegation of Left Front MPs, which visited the State, said on Friday. "In Manipur, people are forced to become refugees in their own country. In the camps, people were telling the delegation about the divide-and-rule policy of the rulers. BJP has failed Manipur. They will have to pay the price for this treachery," CPI MP Binoy Viswam said.

ED attaches assets of Sisodia, others in Delhi excise case

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva flays Aam Aadmi Party; he says that it has no grounds to claim that there was no liquor scam and calls upon Kejriwal to expel former Deputy Chief Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached assets worth ₹52.24 crore belonging to former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and others in the excise policy case, the agency said on Friday.

They include immovable assets worth ₹7.29 crore, involving two properties of Mr. Sisodia and his wife; Chariot Productions Media Private Limited and its owner, Rajesh Joshi; and land/flat of businessman Gautam Malhotra, it said.

No relief: Manish Sisodia leaving his residence in Delhi after meeting his ailing wife in New Delhi in June. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Movable assets of Amandeep Singh Dhall's Brindco Sales Private Limited (₹16.45 crore) and others, besides ₹11.49 lakh in Mr. Sisodia's bank account, have also been attached under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Slamming the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said that AAP had no grounds to claim that there was no liquor scam now that the ED was attaching Mr. Sisodia's properties.

Mr. Sachdeva said: "After today's attachment of Manish Sisodia's properties, his involvement in liquor scam stands established, therefore Mr. Kejriwal should expel him from the AAP or else it would mean that liquor scam was blessed by Mr. Kejriwal himself."

Arrested by the CBI on February 26, Mr. Sisodia moved the Supreme Court on Thursday after the Delhi High Court had in May refused to grant him bail. He has also failed to obtain bail in the money-laundering case registered against him by the ED based on the CBI's FIR.

Visva-Bharati varsity hits out at Sen, calls him 'migrant traveller'

Bishwanath Ghosh
KOLKATA

The Santiniketan-based Visva-Bharati has issued a press release criticising – without naming him – Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen, whom the university accuses of being in illegal possession of its land.

The release was issued on Thursday evening, shortly after Professor Sen, visiting his home in Santiniketan, called the Union government's move to introduce Uniform Civil Code (UCC) "a bluff" and linked it to the idea of a Hindu nation.

The economist, during a interaction with students, also felt that Visva-Bharati was on the decline, with any opposition to the Vice-Chancellor's decision being dealt with punishment.

"Visva-Bharati doesn't insult anyone nor has the intention to do so, but if someone thinks because he is a renowned academician he can grab land belonging to Visva-Bharati, then the administration would not hesitate to take legal action even if the person enjoys the support of sycophants. Since the matter is sub-judice, the Visva-Bharati would not comment on it right now...but it objects to the comments made by the migrant traveller on the current situation," the press release in Bengali said. The PRO did not reply to the question as to why the university came out with such a strong statement against the Nobel Laureate, even though it did not name him.

Deport Khalistanis, Doval tells U.K. counterpart Tim Barrow

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

A day after the U.K.'s Foreign Secretary James Cleverly gave assurance of safety for Indian diplomats in his country, India on Friday urged the U.K. to act against pro-Khalistan elements who have threatened Indian officials.

The discussion in this regard took place at the Hyderabad House between the two delegations led by the visiting National Security Adviser of U.K. Sir Tim Barrow and his Indian counterpart Ajit Doval. The discussion came a day ahead of the expected pro-Khalistan rallies as publicity materials for the event threatened to harm Indian diplomats in the U.K., Canada and other countries.

"The Indian side raised the issue of the extremist elements in U.K. threatening individual officers of the Indian High Commission and urged the U.K. government to take strong public action against these elements such as deportation or legal prosecution," said a source. "There can be no justification for violent extremism and radicalisation in a democracy," said the source.

"Any direct attacks on the Indian High Commission in London are completely unacceptable. We have made clear that the safety of staff at the High Commission is paramount," Mr. Cleverly said on Thursday.

The issue has gathered momentum against the backdrop of pro-Khalistan rallies that are expected to take place in London, Toronto, San Francisco and Melbourne. Campaign for Saturday's rallies drew attention after publicity materials circulated both offline and online singled out diplomats and called for pro-Khalistan activists to avenge the June 18 murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Act against Tripura BJP MLA who watched porn in Assembly: Oppn.

Syed Sajjad Ali
AGARTALA

The opening day of the Budget Session of the Tripura Assembly on Friday witnessed an uproar over Opposition's demand for action against BJP MLA Jadab Lal Nath, who was allegedly caught on camera watching a porn clip in the earlier session. Amid chaos, the Speaker suspended five MLAs from TIPRA, CPI(M) and Congress for the day on the recommendation of Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha.

When the house met, the Opposition sought an action against Mr. Nath who had earlier confessed of having 'briefly seen the porn video' after allegedly receiving a link on his mobile phone. He pleaded innocence all through.

The Opposition staging protest in the Tripura Assembly demanding action against Jadab Lal Nath on Friday. ANI

The agitating members disrupted the Budget Speech of Finance Minister Pranjit Singh Roy as they insisted on discussion and action on the issue.

Opposition staged a walkout after the Speaker's refusal to initiate action against Mr. Nath.

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Name of the work :"Supply of 01 No.60 Ton Bollard Pull Tug along with Manning Crew on Hire for Marine Operation at SPMs and inside Harbour at Paradip for a period of seven years". Estimated Cost put to tender : ₹ 75,48,71,148/-. With reference to above e-tender, revised tender document has been published in the e-procurement website with extension. Last date & time of submission of bids through on-line bidding is 15:00 hours on Dt.31.07.2023. Technical Bids shall be opened at 16:00 hours on Dt.01.08.2023. For details, please log on to the Website : https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app .
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Email ID : rourkelamunicipality@gmail.com
RFP No. 7850 Date: 05/07/23
RFP for Solarization and power back up systems of various facilities under the management of Rourkela Municipal Corporation, Rourkela
Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) invites Request for Proposal (RFP) from intending Agency/ Company/ Firm for Solarization and power back up systems of various facilities under the management of Rourkela Municipal Corporation, Rourkela.
The RFP is to be submitted in closed covers and addressed to the Commissioner, Rourkela Municipal Corporation, Uditnagar, Rourkela, Dist.-Sundargarh (Odisha), PIN-769012 on or before **17.07.2023** through Speed Post/Regd. Post/ Courier or by Hand.
The complete RFP document can download from the RMC website **(www.rmc.nic.in)** from onwards.
RMC reserves the right to reject any or all the RFP without assigning any reason thereof.
Commissioner,
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2.	Duration of the Project	Upto March 31.03.2024, likely to be extended / termination of the project whichever is earlier.	
3.	Age limit	Below 21-45 years	As on date of interview i.e. 25-07-2023 (Relaxation in age as per Govt. of India/ ICAR norms
4.	Emoluments	Rs. 35,000/- per month (Consolidated)	
5.	Essential qualification	Postgraduate in Agriculture/Horticulture/Agricultural Engineering/Basic Sciences/Agribusiness Management/Business Administration from a recognized University/Management Institute/as a full-time regular candidate.	
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1.	IWD/SE/NIT/ 2023-24/14 Dated 27.06.2023	C/o IISER Bhopal (SH: C/o Academic Block -2 Extension (G+5) (SW: SITC of VRV/VRF Air Conditioning Including Internal Electrical work, Fire Alarm System and False ceiling).	Rs. 2,72,43,239/-	Rs. 5,44,865/-	05 months
2.	IWD/SE/NIT/ 2023-24/15 dated 27.06.2023	Providing services for maintenance of the green area like lawns, trees etc. and hiring of excavator (JCB) & tractor/tractor with trolley at IISER Bhopal for the year 2023-24	Rs. 1,77,07,129/-	Rs. 3,54,143/-	12 months
3.	IWD/SE/NIT/ 2023- 24/16 dated 27.06.2023	Landscaping work of I♡ IISER Bhopal signage area near main entrance gate at IISER Bhopal	Rs. 28,83,730/-	Rs. 57,675/-	05 months
4.	IWD/SE/NIT/ 2023- 24/17 dated 27.06.2023	Providing power supply arrangement with lighting fixtures for cricket ground in front of Tower 'E' building at IISER Bhopal	Rs. 7,01,289/-	Rs. 14,026/-	03 months
5.	IWD/SE/NIT/ 2023- 24/18 dated 27.06.2023	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance of VRV/VRF AC installed in Visitors' Hostel at IISER Bhopal for the year 2023-24	Rs. 5,34,803/-	Rs. 10,697/-	12 months

The bids forms and other details for application can be obtained from the website **www.tenderwizard.com/IISERB**. The press notice is also available in Institute website **www.iiserb.ac.in** and website **www.eprocure.gov.in.**

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF TELANGANA LIMITED
VIDYUT SOUDHA :: HYDERABAD – 500 082. Off: PABX:040-23396000
TENDER NOTICE
TENDER SPECIFICATION No.CTO-02/2023
TSTRANSCO invites sealed bids (two part) against Tender Specification No.CTO-02/2023 for **Fixing up of Rate Contract Prices for Erection and oil filtration works of 220KV & 132KV class Power Transformers. The details of Bid Specification, Bid Sale opening date and Bid submission closing date etc.,** are available at TSTRANSCO website.
Sd/-
Chief Engineer/Transmission
Room No:501, 'A' Block,
Vidyut Soudha, Hyderabad.
Ph.No:040-23393453, 23396000
Extn.Nos. 3365,3620, 3322,3661 Ro. No. 13/23

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग – भरतपुर
क्रमांकः ए.सी.ई./बी.टी.पी./निविदा/2023-24/डी-651 दिनांकः 28.06.2023
अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्याः 15/2023-24
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से बजट घोषणा वर्ष 2023-24 के तहत भरतपुर संभाग के अन्तर्गत जिला भरतपुर 02 सड़क निर्माण कार्य (दोष निवारण अवधि 5 वर्ष सहित) के लिए (दोष निवारण अवधि 5 वर्ष सहित) के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्रीय सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के विभिन्न सक्षम श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाईन अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।
निविदा से संबंधित विवरण वेबसाईट www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in एवं www.sppp.raj.nic.in पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर केमाध्यम से वेबसाईट www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर करवाना आवश्यक है।
NIB No.- PWD2324A1349, UBN No.: PWD2324WLOB06696,
UBN No.- PWD2324WSOB06697
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता,
DIPR/C/9740/2023 सा.नि.वि. संभाग भरतपुर

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
PWD CIRCLE, JALORE
NO. SE/JALORE/2023-24/809 Dated 30/06/2023
Notice inviting bid 06/2023-24
NIB No. PWD2324A1383
Bids for construction of Bridge under Budget Announcement 2023-24 are invited for interested bidders from 9.30 am 01 july 2023 to 6.00 pm 10 July 2023. Other particulars of the bids may be visited on the procurement portal (http//eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state; and http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 394.00 lacs.
NIB No. PWD2324A1383

Sr. No.	UBN
1	PWD2324WSOB06875

(Jailal Meena)
Superintending Engineer
DIPR/C/9769 PWD Circle, Jalore

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
ERNAKULAM JN.
1. TENDER NOTICE No. 15-CE-CN-ERS-2023-EPC, DATED: 27.06.2023
Name of Work: **Redevelopment of Kozhikode Railway Station;** Tender Value : ₹ **444,75,00,000/-** ; Bid Security : ₹ **2,22,37,500/-** ; Completion Period : **36 Months; Date and time of tender closing: 31.08.2023.**
2. TENDER NOTICE No. 16-CE-CN-ERS-2023-OT, DATED: 30.06.2023
Name of Work: **Proposed Coaching Terminal at Nemom;** Tender Value : ₹ **58,45,38,285.27/-;** Bid Security : ₹ **30,72,700/-** ; Completion Period : **18 Months; Date and time of tender closing: 26.07.2023.**
Complete details and tender document will be available at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**
1. Tender Notice No.11-CE-CN-ERS-2023-OT, Dated: 26.05.2023 invited for Augmentation of facilities at Nemom yard **Cancelled for Departmental Reasons.**
Chief Engineer / Construction, Ernakulam Jn.
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

INBRIEF

Harassment case: Delhi court summons Brij Bhushan

Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court took cognisance of the Delhi Police's chargesheet against former Wrestling Federation of India chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, on Friday, in a case filed by six adult women wrestlers where the charges included outraging modesty and criminal intimidation. On the same day, the Delhi High Court allowed a minor wrestler to withdraw her plea of sexual harassment against Mr. Singh. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Harjeet Singh Jaspal issued a summons to Mr. Singh and his co-accused, Vinod Tomar, to appear before the Rouse Avenue court on July 18, set as the next date of hearing in the sexual harassment case as both the accused reside in Delhi.

SC turns down petition on protection for POSH plaintiffs

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a plea seeking directions to protect complainants and witnesses in cases under Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) at workplaces from victimisation or retaliation by accused persons or organisations involved. A Bench of Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Justice P.S. Narasimha said the court had in 2020 refused to interfere with a similar prayer and that the petitioner should give specific examples to support her case. "...We leave it open to the petitioner to approach the authorities with a representation so that a decision can be taken if the grievance needs to be looked into," it said. PTI

MP urination incident: tribal victim to get ₹6.5 lakh relief

The Madhya Pradesh government on Friday sanctioned a financial assistance of ₹5 lakh to the tribal man, the victim of the urination incident in Sidhi district, and provided him an additional sum of ₹1.5 lakh for the construction of his house. The financial help comes a day after Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan washed the feet of the victim, Dashmat Rawat, and apologised to him over the humiliating incident. Police on Wednesday arrested Pravesh Shukla, the accused, who faces charges under the IPC, the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and the stringent National Security Act (NSA). PTI

Bus driver was drunk during Buldhana accident: report

A forensic probe into the July 1 bus tragedy in Buldhana of Maharashtra, which killed 25 passengers, has revealed that the bus driver was under the influence of liquor when the accident occurred, a police official said on Friday. The bus caught fire after hitting a divider on the 'Samruddhi Expressway' in the wee hours of Saturday. Eight persons, including the driver Danish Shaikh, survived the accident. Mr. Shaikh was subsequently arrested for negligent driving. "The chemical analysis report of the regional Forensic Science Laboratory revealed that 0.30 per cent alcohol was found in the blood sample of the driver," the official said. PTI

'Selective ban' of messaging apps may be looked at: TRAI

The body has sought inputs on bringing apps like WhatsApp under a licensing framework; this comes as a turning point as it had recommended against the regulation of such apps in 2020

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Friday put out a consultation paper asking if it would be possible for messaging apps such as WhatsApp to be brought under a licensing framework, and whether such apps can be banned "selectively" in places where an Internet shutdown would otherwise have been imposed.

TRAI had recommended in September 2020 that there was no need to regulate "OTT communication services," the term for such apps that allow calling and texting over the Internet, often with encryption that makes it difficult for anyone to access the content of a conversation.

That recommendation does not hold up, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), which is the licensor for telecom operators, told TRAI last September, according to a reference published by the telecom regulator.

More pressure: Telecom operators have previously called for messaging apps to be regulated. GETTY IMAGES

Dindayal Tosniwal, a Deputy Director General at the DoT, cited the "need to holistically look into the various aspects of these [messaging] services including regulatory, economic, security, privacy and safety aspects".

Telecom operators have previously called for messaging apps to be regulated, and demanded that they pay for some of the costs networks incur in running their infrastructure.

WhatsApp complies globally with requests to share so-called "metadata", such as a given user's phonebook or the details of whom they called or messaged in a certain period. They cannot, however, share the contents of messages exchanged between users, or recordings of phone calls, as these are end-to-end encrypted.

Internet shutdown

While this consultation is based on references received from the DoT months ago, it assumes special significance considering the ongoing Internet shutdown in Manipur.

The Manipur High Court has appointed a 12-member panel to look into whether it would be possible to restore Internet access while leaving social media websites and Virtual Private Networks (VPNs), which allow users to get around website and app restrictions, blocked.

TRAI's questions on selective shutdowns appear to be along these lines, without reference to VPNs. Instead, the regulator has hinted at the possibility of a "collaborative framework" between telcos and OTTs. The regulator asked what challenges would be encountered in such a collaboration, including with respect to Net neutrality, the concept that all traffic on a network should be treated without discrimination in speed or pricing.

These proposals may run into resistance from the technology industry and civil society organisations, who have been aligned in the past on issues of privacy of online communications and in their opposition to Internet shutdowns.

'Words like fake, false, misleading in IT Rules problematic'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Bombay High Court expressed concern about the authority conferred on fact-checking unit

The Bombay High Court on Friday said words like, "fake, false and misleading" that are part of the new Information Technology Rules were "problematic".

A Division Bench of Justices Gautam Patel and Neela Gokhale was hearing a bunch of petitions filed by political satirist Kunal Kamra, the Editors Guild of India and the Association of Indian Magazine and regional channels challenging the constitutional validity of the IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2023.

The new Rules require social media intermediaries to censor or otherwise modify content that relates to the Union government if a government-mandated fact checking unit (FCU) directs them to do so.

"The wordings of the IT Rules where words like fake, false and misleading are problematic. Those are the only three criteria [to flag content as false]. We don't know the business of the Central government. The expression like fake is extremely problematic. One might argue something is false. Falsity puts us in a binary, fake doesn't even attempt to do that. The word 'misleading' in the Rules is an extremely problematic area since it is an opinion. Calling something 'misleading' is subjective, what is misleading for one may not necessarily be misleading for another," the Division Bench noted.

The court went on to say, "Analysts may have their own figures. Is it fake news? I want to know what happens to editorial content online. You may find any editorial extremely hard hitting. For example, India's relations with China. Words like fake, false, misleading are used in amendment. We are concerned about authority conferred on FCU.".

McDonald's stores put tomato off the menu amid price rise

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Fast food chain McDonald's has stopped using tomato in its food preparations at most of the stores in northern and eastern parts of the country citing the non-availability of quality products, amid the price of the commodity surging up to ₹200 per kg.

A McDonald's India - North and East spokesperson said it is constrained to "hold tomatoes for the time being" and is trying to resolve this issue by employing sustainable agriculture practices.

"Due to seasonal crop issues arising out of farm fields in a few regions, there are not enough quantities meeting our quality specifications available. To ensure our customers get the best quality we are known to serve, we are constrained to hold tomatoes for the time being," the spokesperson said.

The chain has said the move was due to non-availability of quality tomatoes. AFP

There is also a buzz going on in the social media over the absence of tomatoes on some of the top-selling products of McDonald's such as burgers.

Sustainable agriculture

Assuring the customers, the spokesperson said: "We are working towards resolving this issue by employing sustainable agriculture practices including hydroponically-grown tomatoes in a completely controlled environment to de-risk our requirements from vagaries of season."

BBC gets fresh summons over Modi documentary

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Delhi's Rohini Court on Friday issued fresh notices to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Wikimedia Foundation and U.S.-based digital library Internet Archive in a defamation case over the two-part documentary on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The summons was issued in a case filed against the three by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Binay Kumar Singh.

The order was served through the Union Ministry of Law and Justice after noting that both were foreign entities and thus subject to the rules formulated under the Hague Convention.

According to the defamation complaint of Mr. Singh, the BBC documentary, *India: The Modi Question*, has defamed organisations like the RSS, VHP and the BJP.

Delhi to host test run of hydrogen fuel-cell buses later this year

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Later this year, the first test runs of hydrogen-powered buses will likely be under way in Delhi followed by other States. The buses, developed under a joint venture involving Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. and Tata Motors, will ply – as part of a scientific test experiment – between Delhi and Faridabad, and thereafter on some "iconic" routes, according to S.S.V. Ramakumar, Director (R&D), Indian Oil.

"This will include, for instance, Delhi-Agra; Vadodara to Kevadia [Statue of Unity], in Gujarat, Thiruvananthapuram airport to Thiruvananthapuram city centre [in Kerala]," he said at a press conference in Delhi on Friday.

The hydrogen buses in this experiment are like an electric bus, in that hydrogen interacts with a 'fuel cell' battery producing electricity and no carbon emissions. The hydrogen fuel-cell buses to be deployed are "indigenously manufactured" in India but the actual fuel-cells are reportedly imported.

"We have applied to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for route permits and are currently in the process of homologation. The first three buses are expected to ply in October," Mr. Ramakumar added, "This will be a structured scientific process."

"There are several roadworthiness tests that have to be passed and special tracks have to be created to test these buses," said Ashish Lele, Director, CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory.

This is not the first time that hydrogen powered buses will dot Delhi's roads. In 2020, the Delhi government tested 50 hydrogen-powered CNG buses.

(With inputs from Alisha Dutta)

SC sets aside HC order to hire teachers in Bengal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday set aside a direction of the Calcutta High Court to the West Bengal Board of Primary Education to conduct fresh selection for 32,000 teachers before the end of August.

A Bench of Justice J.K. Maheshwari and K.V. Viswanathan requested the High Court to decide the pending appeals in connection with the school jobs-for-cash scam case, to which the recruitments are allegedly linked, as early as possible. "This a matter relating to selection and appointment of a large number of assistant teachers, we hope and trust that such controversy ought to be decided at the earliest," the court observed.

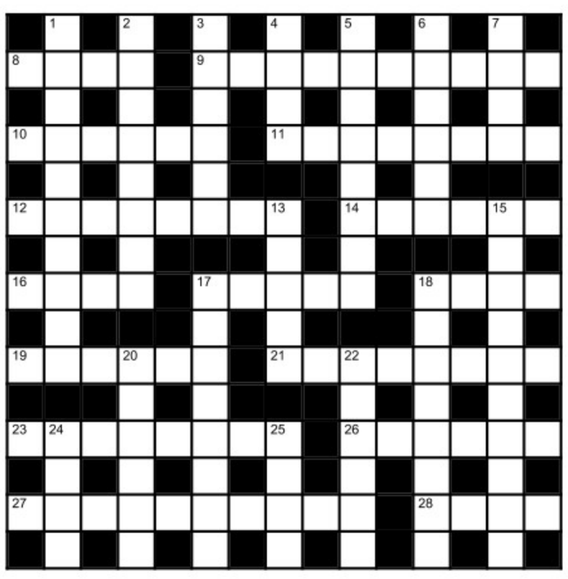
The Bench accepted the contention raised by the Board that it would not be possible to complete the selection of teachers by August.

TH CROSSWORD + 13912

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 God of War's female horses have no energy (4)
9 Short distance from tail of ram to head of moose enlarged (10)
10 Curiously store initially liquid organic chemical (6)
11 "Ours" and "Mine" confused gentleman in France (8)
12 Told, "Find Rome confusing" (8)
14 Bird's complaint (6)
16 Retreats in garden sheds (4)
17 Sire, entreat alien (5)
18 Garlands from Argyle Island (4)
19 Affixes OK mark in ship (6)
21 The empty castle built in air, perhaps (8)
23 Lawyer's poster includes accountant in poll (8)
26 Large buildings Romans designed (6)
27 Sappers getting answer for pixel ratio (10)
28 Mark of injury from violent, endless scrap (4)

Down

1 Tin soldiers capture hundred tanks initially in military area (10)
2 Exorbitant uncle seeks unusually ruinous interest on urgent sums in the beginning (8)
3 Tremble morbidly to some extent and sign (6)
4 Some Muslims can be lean (4)
5 Time to change date? (8)
6 Doc! Deranged doc with one eye, I hear, is chasing setter! (6)
7 French gold for German lady (4)
13 Excavate that finger or toe (5)
15 Master air current flowing behind moving vehicle (10)
17 Make strenuous effort to fix badge behind vehicle with university team leader (4,1,3)
18 See game covering new legendary creature's reputed haunt (4,4)
20 Decay in criminal's plant (6)
22 Cry, "American soldiers captured by Lieutenant" (6)
24 Sketched Ms Barrymore (4)
25 Give out wrong time (4)

SUDOKU

		6						4
				5			2	7
5				3	7	8		
			8	7			1	
4	7	3		1		5	8	2
	1			2	5			
		8	7	9				1
1	2			6				
6						2		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

No.SS5851 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

	Z	A		H		S		I		G		I		
N	E	W	T		A	P	H	I	D		Y	A	N	K
	R		T		S		U		O		P		C	
C	O	V	E	R	T		F	I	L	M	S	T	A	R
			N		E		F		I		U			
C	A	R	D	I	N	A	L		S	A	M	O	S	A
	M		E				E		E				T	
M	I	N	E	R	V	A		D	R	E	D	G	E	D
	G				O		B				E		R	
B	O	N	S	A	I			A	L	C	A	P	O	N	E
			C		C		S		A		A			
S	T	A	R	T	E	R	S		M	A	R	R	O	W
	H		E		B		O		E		T		A	
P	U	M	A		O	D	O	U	R		E	A	R	N
	G		M		X		N		A		D		S	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	3	1	2	7	5	6	8	9
6	5	7	8	4	9	2	3	1
9	8	2	3	6	1	4	7	5
3	9	6	4	1	8	5	2	7
7	4	5	6	3	2	1	9	8
1	2	8	5	9	7	3	6	4
2	7	4	1	8	3	9	5	6
5	1	9	7	2	6	8	4	3
8	6	3	9	5	4	7	1	2

FAITH

Gita's gift to humanity

The Bhagavad Gita, poetically described as the "Song of God," opens with the line, dharma-kshetre kuru-kshetre, which literally translates as the land of dharma, Kurukshetra. But, the true import is embedded in the more profound significance of the Sanskrit words and their placement. If you intermingle the words and place them as kshetre-kshetre dharma kuru, it now reads as from field to field perform your dharma or your bounden duty. Execute honestly and diligently your specific role in life – be that of a student, a householder, a business person, a politician, a teacher, or a mediaperson. Action is the very insignia of life, says the Gita. No human can remain without acting in the world. But how one chooses to act in their particular field makes or mars an individual, a family, a society, a nation, and ultimately the world, said Swami Mitrananda and Avanti Kundalia in a discourse.

The gift of the Gita to humanity is its step-by-step instructions on the right action, the unparalleled blueprint of Karma Yoga, that will lead to personal fulfilment and collective prosperity culminating in self-realisation, which is the ultimate goal of every human, as per Sanatana Dharma. The essence of Karma Yoga is highlighted in verse 47 of Chapter 2, Karmanye vadhikaraste Ma Phaleshu Kadachana, Ma Karmaphalaheturbhurma Te Sangostvakarmani. Perform your duty wholeheartedly without any attachment to what comes out of it. Drop the debilitating angst of "What is in it for me?"

For example, when a doctor sees a severely ill patient, his first concern should be to help the patient recover, not focus on how much business he can make out of this case.

BEIJING

AIIB says internal review found 'no evidence' of China influence

AFP

The China-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) said there was "no evidence" it was dominated by Beijing's ruling Communist Party, as it released a review into explosive claims made by a former executive. The official had resigned from the lender last month, saying it "serves China's interest". AFP

NABLUS

Three Palestinians killed during violence in occupied West Bank

AP

Three Palestinians were killed on Friday in the occupied West Bank. Israeli forces killed two Palestinian fighters when a firefight erupted during an Israeli raid on the northern West Bank city of Nablus while a third Palestinian was killed during a demonstration against settlements in the village of Umm Safa north of Ramallah. AFP

ISLAMABAD

Thousands rally in Pakistan to condemn Sweden Koran burning

AFP

Thousands of people rallied in streets across Pakistan Friday to condemn a Koran burning in Sweden that has outraged Muslims around the world. Earlier this week, Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif called for countrywide protests against the burning, declaring on Friday "a day to uphold the Koran's sanctity". AFP

NEW YORK

Twitter threatens action against Meta over its rival app Threads

AFP

Twitter threatened legal action against Meta over its new text-based app called Threads. In a letter to Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg, Alex Spiro, an attorney representing Twitter, accused Meta of unlawfully using Twitter's trade secrets and other intellectual property by hiring former Twitter employees to create a "copycat" app. AP

Czechs to train Ukraine pilots, supply choppers

Agence France-Presse
PRAGUE

The Czech Prime Minister said on Friday his country would send combat helicopters to Ukraine and train its pilots on U.S.-made F-16 jet fighters to help it battle the Russian invasion.

Prime Minister Petr Fiala also endorsed Ukraine's bid to join NATO following talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

"The Czech Republic will donate further combat helicopters and hundreds of thousands of large-calibre ammunition," Mr. Fiala told reporters.

"It will also help train (Ukrainian) pilots including on F-16 planes and supply flight simulators to enable training in Ukraine as well," he added.

The Czech Republic has provided Ukraine with 676 units of heavy weaponry and more than four million units of medium- and large-calibre ammunition, Mr. Fiala said.

'U.S. to send cluster bombs, armoured vehicles to Ukraine

The bombs will come from Pentagon's stocks; the decision comes despite widespread concerns that the munitions can cause civilian casualties and sparked a call from UN to avoid using them

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden's administration has decided to provide cluster munitions to Ukraine and is expected to announce late on Friday that the Pentagon will send thousands of them as part of a new military aid package worth up to $800 million for the war effort against Russia, according to people familiar with the decision.

The decision comes despite widespread concerns that the bombs can cause civilian casualties and sparked a call from the UN to both Russia and Ukraine to avoid using them. The Pentagon will provide munitions that have a reduced "dud rate", meaning there will be far fewer unexploded rounds that can result in unintended civilian deaths.

The weapons will come from Pentagon stocks and will also include Bradley and Stryker armoured vehicles and an array of ammunition, such as rounds for howitzers and the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, officials said.

Risky proposition: The cluster munitions are part of a new military aid package worth close to $800 million for Ukraine. REUTERS

Long sought by Ukraine, cluster bombs are weapons that open in the air, releasing submunitions, or bomblets, that are dispersed over a large area and are intended to wreak destruction on multiple targets at once.

Ukrainian officials have asked for the weapons to aid their campaign to push through lines of Russian troops and make gains in the ongoing counteroffensive. Russian forces are already using cluster munitions on the battlefield and in populated civilian areas, U.S. officials have said.

According to the International Committee of the Red Cross, some cluster munitions leave behind bomblets that have a high rate of failure to explode – up to 40% in some cases. U.S. officials said on Thursday that the rate of unexploded ordnance for the munitions that will be going to Ukraine is less than 3% and therefore will mean fewer threats left behind to civilians.

At a Pentagon briefing on Thursday, Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder said he had no announcement to make about cluster munitions. He said the Defence Department has "multiple variants" of the munitions and "the ones that we are considering providing would not include older variants."

If the decision was made to provide the munitions to Ukraine, he said the U.S. "would be carefully selecting rounds with lower dud rates, for which we have recent testing data."

Treasury chief says U.S. not seeking 'winner-take-all' competition with China

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told Chinese Premier Li Qiang on Friday that the United States is not seeking "winner-take-all" competition, in a visit to Beijing aimed at stabilising fraught ties.

Ms. Yellen's four-day trip is her first as Treasury chief to China.

Ms. Yellen underscored to Mr. Li that the U.S. does not seek an economic showdown.

"We seek healthy economic competition that is not winner-take-all but that, with a fair set of rules, can benefit both countries over time," she told Mr. Li at Beijing's Great Hall of the People.

The U.S. has said it is seeking to "de-risk" from China by limiting the world's second-largest economy's access to advanced technology deemed crucial to Washington's national security.

Burying the hatchet: Li Qiang, right, shakes hands with Janet Yellen during a meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. AP

Ms. Yellen underlined to Mr. Li that while Washington would "in certain circumstances, need to pursue targeted actions to protect its national security", that should not derail ties. "We may disagree in these instances," she said.

Highlighting the challenges, just days before Ms. Yellen's visit, Beijing unveiled new export controls on metals key to semiconductor manufacturing on national security grounds, in the latest salvo in the chips war.

The Treasury Secretary on Friday told American businesspeople Washington was "concerned" about the curbs.

Beijing optimistic

Despite tensions, Beijing has struck an optimistic tone about the visit.

Premier Li told Ms. Yellen on Friday that China could see the relationship recovering after a difficult period.

Texas gunman in Walmart shooting gets 90 life sentences

Associated Press
EL PASO

A white gunman who killed 23 people in a racist attack on Hispanic shoppers at a Walmart in a Texas border city in the U.S. was sentenced on Friday to 90 consecutive life sentences but could still face more punishment, including the death penalty.

Patrick Crusius, 24, pleaded guilty earlier this year to nearly 50 federal hate crime charges in the 2019 mass shooting in El Paso, making it one of the U.S. government's largest hate crime cases.

Crusius, wearing a jumpsuit and shackles, did not speak during the hearing and showed no reaction as the sentence was read.

He still faces a separate trial in a Texas court that could end with him getting the death penalty

U.S. District Judge David Guaderrama recommended that Crusius serve his sentence at a maximum security prison facility in Colorado.

Crusius still faces a separate trial in a Texas court that could end with him getting the death penalty for carrying out one of the deadliest mass shootings in the history of the U.S.

As Crusius was led from the courtroom, the son of one of the victims shouted at him from the galley.

Victims' kin's reaction

"We'll be seeing you again, coward," yelled Dean Reckard, whose mother, Margie Reckard, was slain in the attack. "No apologies, no nothing."

Police say Crusius drove more than 700 miles from his home near Dallas to target Hispanics with an AK-style rifle inside and outside the store.

Moments before the attack began, Crusius posted a racist screed online that warned of a Hispanic "invasion" of Texas.

Pakistan in peril

Horse power: People ride on a horsecart through a flooded street after heavy rainfall in Lahore on Wednesday. At least 50 people, including eight children, have been killed by floods and landslides triggered by monsoon rains that have lashed Pakistan since last month, officials said. The majority of the deaths were in the eastern Punjab province, and were mainly due to electrocution and building collapses. AFP

Ant Group fined $1 bn by Chinese authorities

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

Chinese regulators said on Friday they had fined fintech giant Ant Group almost $1 billion for "illegal acts" and handed an affiliate of rival Tencent a $415 million penalty, adding that a long-running crackdown on tech firms was drawing to a close.

Ant operates Alipay, the world's largest digital payments platform, which boasts hundreds of millions of monthly users in China and beyond.

It was one of the most prominent targets of a sweeping crackdown on the country's tech sector.

"In view of the illegal and irregular acts by Ant Group and its affiliates in previous years... (the companies) have been fined 7.123 billion yuan ($984 million)," the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) said in a statement.

On Friday, Alibaba shares were up 3.44% in Hong Kong after reports the fine was coming, with analysts saying investors saw the punishment as a sign the crackdown was ending.

In a separate filing, the central bank said it had fined Tenpay, an online-payment firm operated by Ant rival Tencent, a total of nearly 3 billion yuan ($415 million). The penalty included the confiscation of more than 550 million yuan in ill-gotten income.

Sri Lanka counting on Indian tourists to bolster economic recovery

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka is counting on tourists from India, its primary source market, to boost foreign exchange earnings and aid economic recovery, as the island expects fewer tourists from Europe amid the ongoing recession.

Colombo is currently hosting the 67th convention of the Travel Agents Association of India, in a bid to further boost Indian tourist arrivals in the coming years. Addressing participants on Thursday, President Ranil Wickremesinghe said tourism would emerge Sri Lanka's chief foreign exchange earning sector in the next decade. Pitching a collaborative regional effort to promote tourism, he asked "Why don't we make our whole BIMSTEC area one borderless tourist area?", pointing to the scope in the region to showcase diverse sites and cuisines.

Bouncing back

Until May this year, the tourism industry has brought in $3.5 billion into the island, showing signs of bouncing back. Sri Lanka's tourism sector took a big hit after the Easter Sunday terror attacks in April 2019. Before it could recover, it suffered successive blows such as the pandemic and last year's financial meltdown.

Slow start: Until May this year, the tourism industry has brought in $3.5 billion into the island, showing signs of bouncing back. AFP

Prior to that, in 2018, the sector's foreign exchange earnings totalled $4.3 billion, according to the Tourism Development Authority.

India has consistently topped Sri Lanka's tourist arrival charts in recent years, including during the time of COVID-19 and later, during the island nation's economic crisis.

In 2022, when Sri Lanka experienced its worst financial downturn since Independence – citizens suffered amidst acute shortages of essentials and long power cuts – that triggered a mass anti-government uprising, authorities recorded as many as 1,23,004 tourists from India, or 24% of the total arrivals, followed by Russia and the United Kingdom.

In the wake of global recession, India and China are "low hanging fruits", Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau Chairman Chalaka Gajabahu earlier told reporters.

"The focus on India and strategic partnerships between the two countries is therefore vital in ensuring a successful recovery for Sri Lanka's tourism industry," he said.

Earlier this week, Air China restored service between Colombo and Chengdu, in China's Sichuan province, with three weekly flights.

This was after Sri Lanka Tourism welcomed the first batch of Chinese tourists for the year in March, after a gap of three years since the pandemic.

More flights

Meanwhile, Air India subsidiary Alliance Air has announced the introduction of daily direct flights between Chennai and Jaffna, in northern Sri Lanka.

Launched in 2019 the Jaffna-Chennai flight, currently operated thrice a week, was suspended during the pandemic.

Service resumed in December last year, and has since witnessed a surge in demand.

INBRIEF

Tata Motors posts 29% rise in JLR sales to 1,01,994 units

Tata Motors-owned Jaguar Land Rover on Friday reported a 29% rise in retail sales in the first quarter ended June 30 at 1,01,994 units, from the same period a year earlier. The growth reflects continuing improvement in chip and other supply constraints, Tata Motors said in a regulatory filing. Wholesales, excluding those of Chery Jaguar Land Rover China JV, were at 93,253 units in the first quarter, a 30% increase from the year-earlier period. PTI

Aurobindo arm, BioFactura to commercialise biosimilar

Aurobindo Pharma subsidiary CuraTeQ Biologics has entered into an exclusive license agreement with U.S. firm BioFactura Inc to commercialise BFI-751, a proposed biosimilar to recombinant monoclonal antibody Stelara (Ustekinumab) that is used for treating Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, plaque psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis.

Additionally, CuraTeQ will have the global manufacturing rights for the product, which will be produced at its facilities in Hyderabad.

Rosneft appoints former IOC director; first Indian on board

Russian energy giant Rosneft has appointed a former Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) director to its board in signs it may be looking at boosting trade links with India. G.K. Satish, who retired as director for business development at IOC in 2021, is one of the three new faces appointed to the 11-member-strong board of directors of Rosneft, according to a statement issued by the Russian firm. Mr. Satish, 62, is the first Indian to be appointed to the board of Rosneft. PTI

Govt. to share PM Gati Shakti data

Industry and potential investors will have access to infrastructure data captured on the PM Gati Shakti platform, according to a top government official; data sharing to be compatible with the policies of the Science and Electronics & IT ministries

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The government is working out a mechanism to share data with industry and potential investors about multi-modal connectivity as well as other physical and social infrastructure captured on the PM Gati Shakti platform, a top official said on Friday.

The Network Planning Group (NPG) under the platform which has multiple layers of geospatial data from across the country, has so far managed to evaluate and facilitate 85 large central infrastructure projects worth nearly ₹5.4 lakh crore so far, said Sumita Dawra, Special Secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

At the NPG's 51st meeting chaired by DPIIT Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh on Friday, the group evaluated five national highway projects worth ₹15,600 crore, which included two highways in Maharashtra, a ring road around Kanpur, and a tunnel project in Mizoram to help commuters and goods bypass the capital city of Aizawl.

A clutch of projects worth ₹719 crore, which are essentially disaster risk mitigation measures for Uttarakhand's Garhwal region, were also taken up. These include 20 road stretches prone to landslides and 11 sinking zones.

Responding to a query from *The Hindu* on when the Gati Shakti portal may be opened up for investors and other stakeholders outside government, Ms. Dawra said the issue was discussed and ministries were working together to reach a consensus on the modalities.

"Geospatial data sharing has to be compatible with the Science Ministry's policy, while the Ministry of Electronics and IT has been asked to examine issues relating to data protection and privacy. All ministries are working out what data can be shared," she said, without indicating a time frame for implementation.

Data rush

The Centre is planning to allow industry and investors to tap into data collected under the PM Gati Shakti plan

- The Gati Shakti portal has multiple layers of geospatial data from across the country
- Gati Shakti's Network Planning Group has so far evaluated 85 large central infrastructure projects
- Ministries are currently working out what data can be shared with industry and investors

Job gains slow; wage rise to spur Fed hike

Reuters
WASHINGTON

The U.S. added 2,09,000 payroll jobs in June – fewer than anticipated – but still-strong wage growth and a slight drop in the unemployment rate would likely keep the Federal Reserve on track to raise interest rates at the upcoming meeting in July.

"The economy is still adding more jobs than new entrants to the labour market," Vanguard Global Chief Economist Joseph Davis and Senior International Economist Andrew Patterson wrote in a note. Wage growth "remains well above levels the Fed would be comfortable with" in the fight to return inflation to the 2% target.

Despite ongoing concerns about a possible economic downturn or recession, companies have continued to add workers and up their pay. "The labour market remains very tight," Fed Chair Jerome Powell said last month.

'GST registered firms must geocode their addresses'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

GST Network on Friday said it had geocoded 1.8 crore addresses of registered businesses and the functionality was now live for all States and UTs.

Geocoding would help in finding out the exact location of the registered entity and check bogus registrations.

In an update to businesses, GSTN said the functionality for geocoding the principal place of business address was now live for all States and Union Territories in the country.

SC denies SpiceJet time to pay Maran

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

In a jolt to SpiceJet, the Supreme Court on Friday refused to grant the low-cost airline more time to pay media baron Kalanidhi Maran and his Kal Airways an arbitral award of ₹578 crore related to a share-transfer dispute, remarking that these were "luxury" litigations.

While refusing to extend the time, the Delhi High Court had on June 1 directed SpiceJet to deposit "forthwith" ₹75 crore that had to be paid to Mr. Maran and his Kal Airways towards interest on the arbitral award. Prior to this, the top court had ordered that the bank guarantee of ₹270 crore furnished by SpiceJet to Mr. Maran and his firm must be encashed immediately if the airlines failed to pay ₹75 crore towards interest by May 13.

A bench of Chief Justice D. Y. Chandrachud and Justice P. S. Narasimha on Friday did not accept the submissions of senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for SpiceJet, and refused to extend the time, saying the entire award had become executable.

"The idea is just to delay complying with the orders of the court," the CJI said. "The writ of the court has to be complied with."

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	65,280	-0.77
US Dollar	82.61	-0.01
Gold	59,240	-0.18
Brent oil	77.62	2.36

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2379.60	-23.30
Adani Ports	718.70	-21.35
Apollo Hosp	5146.25	-136.80
Asian Paints	3343.70	-55.70
Axis Bank	976.70	-4.25
Bajaj Auto	4834.00	-83.70
Bajaj Finserv	1614.90	-5.00
Bajaj Finance	7622.35	-143.90
Bharti Airtel	870.45	0.80
BPCL	391.65	-1.65
Britannia Ind	5054.50	-119.05
Cipla	1020.65	-0.60
Coal India	234.00	-0.60
Divis Lab	3668.65	-68.20
Dr Reddys Lab	5182.50	-49.30
Eicher Motors	3184.80	-37.40
Grasim Ind	1743.30	-24.75
HCL Tech	1157.60	-23.05
HDFC	2769.45	-26.45
HDFC Bank	1660.40	-14.60
HDFC Life	658.10	-3.05
Hero MotoCorp	3148.20	-23.90
Hindalco	422.70	-3.70
Hind Unilever	2698.10	-59.00
ICICI Bank	946.40	-13.00
IndusInd Bank	1357.10	-33.10
Infosys	1330.20	-13.70
ITC	468.40	-5.50
JSW Steel	788.40	-7.15
Kotak Bank	1853.50	-23.80
L&T	2449.35	-39.25
M&M	1564.15	15.35
Maruti Suzuki	9850.25	-9.15
NestleIndia	22906.20	-193.25
NTPC	192.60	-4.15
ONGC	163.50	-1.90
PowerGrid Corp	255.45	-7.25
Reliance Ind	2633.60	-5.15
SBI Life	1294.00	1.05
State Bank	593.60	1.10
Sun Pharma	1035.70	-6.80
TataConsumerProduct	833.25	-11.80
Tata Motors	618.20	17.40
Tata Steel	111.60	-1.05
TCS	3329.25	6.35
Tech Mahindra	1156.00	-23.25
Titan	3144.00	37.60
UltraTech Cement	8336.45	-73.75
UPL	663.00	-9.75
Wipro	395.85	-0.35

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 07

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.54	82.86
Euro	89.89	90.24
British Pound	105.32	105.74
Japanese Yen (100)	57.63	57.86
Chinese Yuan	11.41	11.45
Swiss Franc	92.18	92.55
Singapore Dollar	61.07	61.32
Canadian Dollar	61.75	62.00
Malaysian Ringitt	17.68	17.76
Australian Dollar	54.84	55.05

Source:Indian Bank

SEBI amends rules to avoid multiple filings by debt issuers

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has notified rules for introducing the concept of general information and key information document to avoid multiple filings of documents by issuers of debt securities.

The move will promote ease of doing business for issuers.

A General Information Document (GID) will contain the information and disclosures specified in the common schedule and will be filed with the stock exchanges at the time of the first issuance.

The GID will have a validity period of one year, SEBI said in a notification.

Thereafter, for subsequent private placements of non-convertible securities or commercial papers within the validity period, only a Key Information Document (KID) will be required to be filed with the stock exchanges, containing material changes.

Yokohama India eyes '5th rank' in India's car radial tyres market

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Yokohama India, a subsidiary of Japan's Yokohama Rubber Company Ltd., having already initiated efforts to expand capacity from 2.5 million tyres per annum to 4.5 million units by 2025, is now eyeing 5th position (from the current 7th position) in the passenger car radial tyres segment of the Indian market.

"In the last 3 years we have doubled our sales to close to 2.1 million units," said Harinder Singh, CEO & MD, Yokohama India.

Harinder Singh

"This year we are targeting a 50% increase over the last year's number and should be touching around 3 million units. We are planning to be the 5th largest player by the end of 2025," Mr. Singh added.

He also said the company, which had so far invested almost $154 million, would add capacity with an additional investment of $82 million. This capacity addition of car radial tyres was being made at Visakhapatnam, where the firm runs a plant to manufacture off-highway tyres.

After this second plant for car radials goes onstream in 2025, the company, which mostly caters to the replacement market currently, would look to aggressively supply to OEMs [car manufacturers].

LIC pares stake in Exide Industries to 3.51%

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has pared its stake in Exide Industries to 3.51% by divesting more than 1.70 crore shares over the course of about 30 months up to July 6.

From 5.51% on December 17, 2020, the holding in the battery maker had been pared by two percentage points through open market sales at an average price of ₹179.84 per share, the insurer said in a filing.

Almost half of workers in India do not feel secure in jobs: Survey

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Job insecurity is a growing concern for workers worldwide, and in India 47% of employees do not feel secure in their positions, according to a survey by ADP Research Institute.

"Workers are bound to be worried about their jobs in these volatile and uncertain economic times, especially in light of recent reports of large-scale job losses at prominent corporations and the alleged threat of AI to human employment," said Rahul Goyal, MD, ADP.

According to a survey of more than 32,000 workers, half of Gen Z (18-24 year-olds) said they did not feel secure in their jobs.

This is double the proportion of over 55-year-olds who say the same.

The report 'People at Work 2023: A Global Workforce View' noted that in India, employees in realty, construction and related jobs experienced the highest levels of job insecurity.

Sport

Second consecutive pole for Rajiv

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Rajiv Sethu and Vignesh Goud notched up their second consecutive pole positions in the MRF-MMSC-FMSCI National motorcycle racing championships second round here on Friday.

Riding fast: Rajiv Sethu in action. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results (qualifying – top 3 best lap): National Championship – Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open: 1. Rajiv Sethu (RACR Castrol Power1 Ultimate) (1min, 50.708secs); 2. K.Y. Ahamed (Petronas TVS Racing) (1:50.718); 3. Deepak Ravikumar (Petronas TVS Racing) (1:50.882).

Novice (Stock 165cc): 1. Vignesh Goud (Race'ists Motorcycle Club) (2:08.362); 2. Manvith Reddy (RACR Castrol Power1 Ultimate) (2:09.998); 3. Sangeeth Sundar (Rookies Racing) (2:10.220).

Petronas TVS One-Make Championship – Open (RR 310): 1. S. Senthil Kumar (1:55.017); 2. A. Alwin Sundar (1:55.083); 3. Chiranth Vishwanath (1:55.104).

Girls (Apache RTR 200): 1. Nadine Faith Balaji (2:14.928); 2. Nithila Das (2:15.187); 3. Sarah Khan (2:16.539).

SNAPSHOTS

Mixed day for Anand

ZAGREB: Viswanathan Anand had a moderate run on day two of the SuperUnited Rapid and Blitz chess tournament, part of the Grand Chess Tour, winning, drawing and losing a game each.

Anand beat Ivan Saric in round four, settled for a draw against Fabiano Caruana and ended with a loss to Magnus Carlsen on Thursday.

GM D. Gukesh bounced back from a below par start to win two matches and drew one to climb to the joint second spot.

Gukesh beat Constantin Lupulescu and Saric after drawing with Richard Rapport.

A surging Ian Nepomniachtchi and Caruana were able to catch Anand during the second day. All three now have eight points and share the top spot followed by Gukesh and Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Poland), who are on seven points each.

Sindhu, Lakshya in Canada Open quarters

CALGARY: P.V. Sindhu and Lakshya Sen progressed to the quarterfinals of the women's and men's singles competitions at the Canada Open Super 500 badminton here.

While Sindhu advanced to the last eight after her opponent Natsuki Nidaira of Japan gave a her a walkover, Sen notched up a 21-15, 21-11 win over Brazil's Ygor Coelho in 31 minutes. **The results: Men:** Lakshya Sen bt Ygor Coelho (Bra) 21-15, 21-11. **Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals:** Mohammad Ahsan & Hendra Setiawan (Ina) bt Krishna Prasad Garaga & Vishnuvardhan Goud Panjala 21-9, 21-1.

Women: P.V. Sindhu w/o Natsuki Nidaira (Jpn).

LIVE TELECAST

Bangladesh vs Afghanistan: 2nd ODI, FanCode, 1.30 p.m.

The Ashes: 3rd Test, day 3. Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 p. m.

The Championships: Star Sports 2, SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 3.30 p.m. onwards

TNPL: Star Sports 3 & FanCode, 7.15 p.m.

Formula One: British GP (Qualifying), F1 TV & F1 TV Pro App, 7.30 p.m.

BWF Canada Open: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 11.30 p.m.

Women's Ashes: 3rd T20I, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 11 p.m.

It's Wild Emperor vs. Silver Canyon in D.M. Kumaraswamy Memorial Cup

BENGALURU: Wild Emperor and Silver Canyon may fight out the finish of the D.M. Kumaraswamy Memorial Cup (1,400m), the main event of the races to be held here on Saturday (July 8). False rails (width about 9m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 BHISHMA PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over, 2-00 p.m.: 1. Super Gladiator (6) Sai Kiran 61, 2. Capriati (5) S. John 60, 3. Peridot (1) Likith Appu 58.5, 4. Musterion (4) Vishal Bunde 58, 5. Osiris (3) M. Naveen 57, 6. Sacred Creator (–) (–) 55, 7. Quevega (–) (–) 53.5, 8. Solid Power (2) S. Saba 53.5 and 9. Lady Godiva (7) P.P. Dhebe 50.

1. CAPRIATI, 2. PERIDOT, 3. SOLID POWER

2 BASQUE PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 2-30: 1. Rival (2) Akshay K 60, 2. Mystical Merkabah (–) (–) 57.5, 3. Embosom (4) Vinod Shinde 55.5, 4. Vayu (1) Antony 54.5, 5. Faiz (5) Abhay S 54, 6. Jersey Legend (10) Arvind K 54, 7. I Want It All (7) Ayaz Khan 53.5, 8. Phoebe (3) Inayat 53.5, 9. Desertdragon (8) S. Saba 53, 10. War Trail (6) P. Siddaraju 52.5 and 11. Southernaristocrat (9) P. Surya 50.

1. RIVAL, 2. VAYU, 3. JERSEY LEGEND

3 MAURITIUS PEARL PLATE (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3-00: 1. Cristaldo (4) G. Vivek 56, 2. Irish Coffee (5) Arvind K 56, 3. Spacex (7) Md. Aliyar 56, 4. Star Concept (3) Suraj 56, 5. Super Stride (6) Hindu S 56, 6. Vinamrao (8) Ayaz Khan 56, 7. Alice Blue (2) Antony 54.5, 8. Crimson Star (10) Vivek 54.5, 9. Kallania (9) R. Pradeep 54.5 and 10. Tortilla Chip (1) Santosh Raj 54.5.

1. STAR CONCEPT, 2. SUPER STRIDE, 3. ALICE BLUE

4 LAGARDE PLATE (1,200m), rated 60 to 85, 3-30: 1. Etosha (4) Zervan 60, 2, Ashwa Yadhvir (6) Suraj 59.5, 3. Emperor Roderic (2) Trevor 59.5, 4. Miss Little Angel (7) Sonu K 57, 5. Kay Star (8) P. Sai Kumar 56, 6. Amreli (3) Inayat 55, 7. Del Mar (5) Arvind K 55 and 8. Kensington Court (1) Likith Appu 52.

1. EMPEROR RODERIC, 3. ASHWA YUDHVIR, 3. ETOSHA

5 FIRE HAVEN PLATE (1,600m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 4-00: 1. Double Scotch (10) Akshay K 56, 2. Ebotse (4) Antony 56, 3. Lone Ranger (1) T.S. Jodha 56, 4. Pharazon (3) C. Umesh 56, 5. Treasure Chest (9) J.H. Arul 56, 6. Walvis Bay (6) G. Vivek 56, 7. Wolf Creek (2) Hindu S 56, 8. Golden Bella (7) Zervan 54.5, 9. Grace (8) Suraj 54.5 and 10. Irish Rockstar (5) Trevor 54.5.

1. EBOTSE, 2. IRISH ROCKSTAR, 3. PHARAZON

6 D.M. KUMARASWAMY MEMORIAL CUP (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 4-y-o & over, 4-30: 1. Lord Frankel (8) S. John 61.5, 2. Prince Abir (5) Shreyas S 60, 3. Roudy (7) Likith Appu 57, 4. Wild Emperor (2) T.S. Jodha 56.5, 5 Scribbling Hopper (4) Antony 55.5, 6. Silver Canyon (3) Trevor 53, 7. Southern Power (1) Jagadeesh 52 and 8. Southern Force (6) Tousif 51.5.

1. WILD EMPEROR, 2. SILVER CANYON, 3. ROUDY

7 BASQUE PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-00: 1. Splendour On Grass (5) P. Sai Kumar 61, 2. Chisox (4) Inayat 60.5, 3. Brilliant Star (6) Suraj 60, 4. Divo (3) Zervan 60, 5. Worcester (1) A. Imran 60, 6. Twilight Fame (-) (-) 58.5, 7. Miss Maya (7) Abhay S 58, 8. Superhero (9) T.S. Jodha 54.5, 9. The Gallery Time (2) Sai Kiran 54, 10. Loving Pearl (10) R. Pradeep 53.5 and 11. Double Vision (8) Shreyas S 50.

1. DIVO, 2. SPLENDOUR ON GRASS, 3. BRILLIANT STAR

Day's best: **STAR CONCEPT**

Double: **RIVAL – EMPEROR RODERIC**

Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

CRUISE MODE

Sri Lanka beats West Indies in qualifier dead rubber

Sri Lanka maintained its unbeaten record at the Cricket World Cup Qualifier as Pathum Nissanka's hundred helped secure an eight-wicket victory over the West Indies on Friday. **The scores:** West Indies 243/10 in 48.1 overs (Carty 87, Theekshana 4/34) lost to Sri Lanka 244/2 in 44.2 overs (Nissanka 104 n.o., Karunaratne 83).

OBLIGING THE PM

Tamim reverses retirement decision; Liton named skipper

Bangladesh's Tamim Iqbal withdrew his retirement from international cricket, following a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the country's cricket board said on Friday. He will, however, take a six-week rest to regain fitness. The meeting took place just hours after Liton Das was named captain of the side.

EDGED OUT

Philipsen denies Cavendish Tour de France career stage record

Jasper Philipsen won his third stage of the Tour de France in Bordeaux on Friday, overtaking veteran Mark Cavendish at the line. The 38-year-old Cavendish, looking for a record-breaking 35th career stage win, took the lead, but Philipsen burst past him to win. Jonas Vingegaard retained the overall leader's yellow jersey.

NEW INITIATIVE

FIFA to trial changes to offside rule as proposed by Wenger

FIFA is trialling a change to the offside rule. The trial will be done in competitions in Sweden and Italy for the next season. According to it, a player will be offside only when the complete body is ahead of the last defender's line instead of the old rule which states any part of the head, body or feet, even if it's just a finger!

Stokes pulls England out of trouble; Cummins scalps six

The home team captain's onslaught and his partnerships with tail-enders limit the deficit to just 26 runs; Australia finishes day two ahead by 142 overall, with six wickets in hand

THE ASHES

Agence France-Presse
LEEDS

Moeen Ali struck twice in quick succession in the third Test against Australia at Headingley on Friday after England captain Ben Stokes's dynamic 80, his latest dashing innings, had kept the hosts' Ashes hopes alive.

Australia was 116 for four in its second innings at stumps on the second day, a lead of 142 runs, as it looked to go 3-0 up in the five-match series and secure a first Ashes campaign triumph in England since 2001.

Mitchell Marsh, who had already marked his first Test in nearly four years with a brilliant run-a-ball 118 in Australia's first-innings 263, was 17 not out, with Travis Head unbeaten on 18.

The pair's partnership of 155 had been pivotal in securing a first-innings lead and another big stand would likely bat England out of the game.

Australia had been in command at 68 for one on Friday only for off-spinner Moeen to take two wickets for two runs in nine balls while removing Marnus Labuschagne and Steve Smith – two of the world's top three-ranked Test batsmen.

England risked conceding a large first-innings lead when they slumped to 142 for seven at lunch. But all-rounder Stokes' brilliant knock and his partnerships with tail-enders took England to 237, a deficit of just 26 runs, despite Australia captain Pat Cummins's fine return of six for 91.

Fire brand: Stokes combated Australia's dominance with audacious strokeplay. GETTY IMAGES

SCOREBOARD

Australia — 1st innings: 263 in 60.4 overs.

England — 1st innings: Zak Crawley c Warner b Marsh 33, Ben Duckett c Carey b Cummins 2, Harry Brook c Smith b Cummins 3, Joe Root c Warner b Cummins 19, Jonny Bairstow c Smith b Starc 12, Ben Stokes c Smith b Murphy 80, Moeen Ali c Smith b Cummins 21, Chris Woakes c Carey b Starc 10, Mark Wood c Marsh b Cummins 24, Stuart Broad c Smith b Cummins 7, Ollie Robinson (not out) 5; Extras (b-4, lb-3, w-5, nb-9): 21; Total (in 52.3 overs): 237.

Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-22, 3-65, 4-68, 5-87, 6-131, 7-142, 8-167, 9-199.

Australia bowling: Starc 14-3-59-2, Cummins 18-1-91-6, Boland 10-0-35-0, Marsh 3-1-9-1, Murphy 7.3-0-36-1.

Australia — 2nd innings: Usman Khawaja c Bairstow b Woakes 43, David Warner c Crawley b Broad 1, Marnus Labuschagne c Brook b Moeen 33, Steve Smith c Duckett b Moeen 2, Travis Head (batting) 18, Mitchell Marsh (batting) 17; Extras (b-1, lb-1): 2; Total (for four wkts. in 47 overs): 116.

Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-68, 3-72, 4-90.

England bowling: Broad 10-1-36-1, Woakes 9-0-28-1, Wood 10-2-12-0, Root 1-0-4-0, Moeen 17-3-34-2.

Cummins. GETTY IMAGES

Heartbreak for Murray, Alcaraz moves ahead; Sabalenka fights on

WIMBLEDON

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Carlos Alcaraz moved a step closer to a potential Wimbledon title showdown with Novak Djokovic on Friday as two-time champion Andy Murray admitted his All England Club days may be numbered after suffering a heart-breaking defeat to Stefanos Tsitsipas.

World No. 1 Alcaraz defeated 84th-ranked Alexandre Muller of France 6-4, 7-6(2), 6-3.

Murray went down 7-6 (3), 6-7(2), 4-6, 7-6(3), 6-4 to fifth-ranked Tsitsipas in a four-hour 40-minute epic.

Murray had been ahead when the match was halted on Thursday due to a local 11:00 pm tournament curfew.

However, he was unable to maintain the momentum on Friday despite not dropping serve in the match until the third game of the decider.

Men's third seed Daniil Medvedev returned to complete his second-round clash against Adrian Mannarino. The mercurial Russian was two sets and 4-4 ahead when play was halted on day four but quickly wrapped up victory in a third set tie-break.

Danish sixth seed Holger Rune brushed aside Spain's Roberto Carballes Baena 6-3, 7-6(3), 6-4.

Women's second seed Aryna Sabalenka recovered from a set down to beat Varvara Gracheva 2-6, 7-5, 6-2.

Two-time champion Petra Kvitova eased past Aliaksandra Sasnovich 6-2, 6-2.

Victoria Azarenka, twice a semifinalist, made the last 16 when she brushed aside Russia's Daria Kasatkina.

Ukraine's Lesia Tsurenko also reached the fourth round after triumphing in the longest-ever tiebreak in a Grand Slam women's singles match.

The deciding breaker stretched to a record 38 points as the 34-year-old defeated Ana Bogdan 4-6, 6-3, 7-6(18) having saved five match points and converting a seventh match point of her own.

The day in numbers

Svitolina

Sinner

2 Alexander Bublik is only the second-ever Kazakh man to reach the round of 16 at a Grand Slam after Mikhail Kukushkin (2012, Australian Open, 2019 Wimbledon)

3 Three Ukrainian women (Elina Svitolina, Lesia Tsurenko and Marta Kostyuk) have reached the third round at Wimbledon for the first time in the Open era

4 The second-round fixture between Ekaterina Alexandrova and Madison Brengle is only the fourth-ever women's singles match featuring three tiebreaks at a Major in the Open era

9 Jannik Sinner has reached the fourth round of a Grand Slam for the ninth time in his career, joining Matteo Berrettini and Giuseppe Merlo in second place on the all-time Italian men's list led by Nicola Pietrangeli (16) for most Grand Slam round-of-16 appearances

Third-round picks

Men
3- Medvedev vs Fucsovics
10- Tiafoe vs Dimitrov
19- Zverev vs Berrettini
31- Davidovich Fokina vs Rune

Women
2- Sabalenka vs Blinkova
3- Rybakina vs Boulter
22- Potapova vs Andreeva
25- Keys vs Kostyuk

COMPILED BY NIHIT SACHDEVA

THE RESULTS

Men: Third round: 17-Hurkacz (Pol) bt 14-Musetti (Ita) 7-6(4), 6-4, 6-4; 8-Sinner (Ita) bt Halys (Fra) 3-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; 23-Bublik (Kaz) bt Marterer (Ge 6-4, 6-1, 7-6(4); Safiullin bt Pella (Arg) 7-6(1), 6-4, 6-0.

26-Shapovalov (Can) bt Broady (GBr) 4-6, 6-2, 7-5, 7-5.

Second round: 5-Tsitsipas (Gre) bt Murray (GBr) 7-6(3), 6-7(2), 4-6, 7-6(3), 6-4; O'Connell (Aus) bt Vesely (Cze) 6-3, 7-5, 6-4; 6-Rune (Den) bt Carballes Baena (Esp) 6-3, 7-6(3), 6-4; Berrettini (Ita) bt 15-de Minaur (Aus) 6-3, 6-4, 6-4; 19-Zverev (Ger) bt Watanuki (Jpn) 6-4, 5-7, 6-2, 6-2; 1-Alcaraz (Esp) bt Muller (Fra) 6-4, 7-6(2), 6-3; 31-Davidovich Fokina (Esp) bt de Zandschulp (Ned) 6-1, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3. 3-Medvedev bt Mannarino (Fra) 6-3, 6-3, 7-6(5).

Women: Third round: Tsurenko (Ukr) bt Bogdan (Rom) 4-6, 6-3, 7-6(18); Vondrousova (Cze) 20-Vekic (Cro) 6-1, 7-5; 4-Pegula (USA) bt Cocciaretto (Ita) 6-4, 6-0; 14-Bencic (Sui) bt 23- Linette (Pol) 6-3, 6-1. 19-Azarenka bt 11-Kasatkina 6-2, 6-4.

Second round: 6-Jabeur (Tun) bt Zhuoxuan (Chn) 6-1, 6-1. Kostyuk (Ukr) bt Badosa (Esp) 6-2, 1-0, ret; 9-Kvitova (Cze) bt Sasnovich 6-2, 6-2; 25-Keys (USA) bt Golubic (Sui) 7-5, 6-3; Blinkova bt 29-Begu (Rom) 7-5, 6-3; Galfi (Hun) bt Niemeier (Ger) 4-6, 7-6(5), 6-1; Stevanovic (Srb) bt Korpatsch (Ger) 7-5, 7-5; 21-Alexandrova bt Brengle (USA) 6-7(4), 7-6(5), 7-6(7); 2-Sabalenka bt Gracheva 2-6, 7-5, 6-2; Andreescu (Can) bt 26-Kalinina (Ukr) 6-2, 4-6, 7-6(7). 3-Rybakina (Kaz) bt Cornet (Fra) 6-2, 7-6(2).

Vyshak's incisive bowling gets South Zone back in the game against North Zone

DULEEP TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Fast bowler V. Vyshak (5/76) pulled South Zone back into the contest against North Zone on the penultimate day of their Duleep Trophy semifinal here on Friday.

Vyshak's second First Class five-for helped South dismiss North for 211 in the second innings. Set a target of 214, South ended the day on 21 for no loss.

For the third straight day, showers and bad light forced interruptions. The M. Chinnaswamy Stadium pitch afforded movement and a hint of low bounce to make things tricky for batters. Vyshak, who struggled to keep the right length in the first essay, got it right the second time around.

The Karnataka pacer used his wits to outsmart a rampaging Prabhsimran Singh. The wicketkeeper-batter looked dangerous in his 93-ball 63, until he fell for a bouncer trap laid by Vyshak. Prabhsimran could not resist the pull, and skied a catch to deep square-leg. "Prabhsimran was looking to get one or two boundaries every over. So we planned to get him with bouncers, and it worked," Vyshak said.

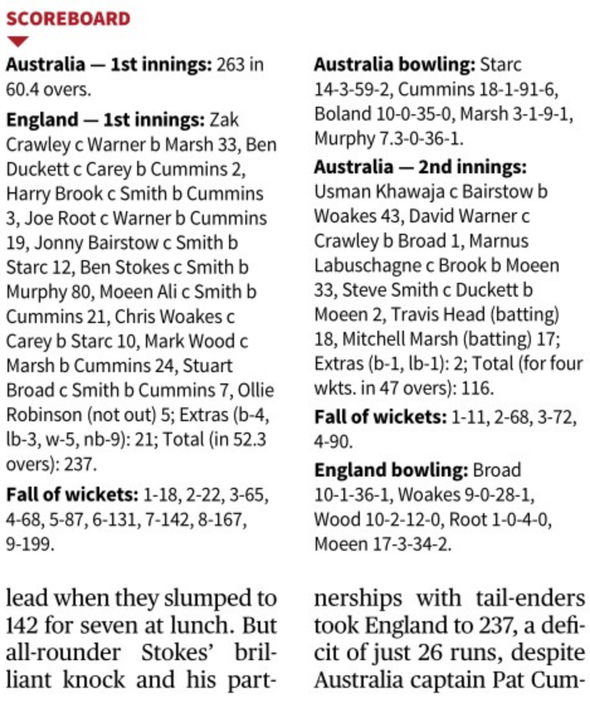
Vyshak added that his season with Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) helped him understand the nuances of recovery.

"I usually did the right things before a game, but not after a game. Now I know how to recover well. (RCB strength and conditioning coach) Basu Shanker and senior players helped me a lot," Vyshak said.

The 26-year-old stated that since more rain is expected on Saturday, South is likely to have 60 to 65 overs to get the remaining 194 runs.

Left-arm spinner Sai Kishore prised out another big wicket in Ankit Kumar (26, 69b, 3x4). Ankit was early into his shot, and edged a short ball up to mid-wicket.

In the space of two overs, North had fallen from a comfortable 146 for three to 147 for five. Vyshak and Kishore combined to take out the remaining batters in quick succession, save for an entertaining 36-ball 38 from Harshit Rana.



Key performer: Vyshak's second First Class five-for helped South dismiss North cheaply. K. MURALI KUMAR

The scores: North — 1st innings: 198.

South — 1st innings: 195.

North Zone — 2nd innings: Dhruv Shorey b Vyshak 5, Prashant Chopra b Kaverappa 19, Ankit Kalsi c Bhui b Kaverappa 29, Prabhsimran Singh c Kishore b Vyshak 63, Ankit Kumar c Tilak b Kishore 26, Nishant Sindhu c Bhui b Vyshak 15, Jayant Yadav b Vyshak 1, Pulkit Narang c Vihari b Vyshak 0, Harshit Rana b Kishore 38, Vaibhav Arora c Bhui Kishore 4, Baltej Singh (not out) 0; Extras (b-10, nb-1): 11; Total (in 56.4 overs): 211.

Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-44, 3-61, 4-146, 5-147, 6-164, 7-164, 8-171, 9-200.

South bowling: Kaverappa 17-2-47-2, Vyshak 15-0-76-5, Sasikanth 15-1-47-0, Kishore 7.4-2-28-3, Sundar 2-0-3-0.

South — 2nd innings: Sai Sudharsan (batting) 5, Mayank Agarwal (batting) 15; Extras (lb-1): 1; Total (for no loss, in 6.3 overs): 21.

North bowling: Harshit 3.3-0-11-0, Baltej 3-1-9-0.

West pulls further ahead after Pujara's chanceless hundred

Pranay Rajiv
BENGALURU

Cheteshwar Pujara scored a chanceless hundred on a rain-curtailed day as West Zone closed in on a win against Central Zone on the third day of the Duleep Trophy semifinal at the Alur (1) cricket ground on Friday.

Central bowlers kept finding breakthroughs from one end, but couldn't dislodge an immovable Pujara, who scored his 60th First Class hundred, bringing him level with Vijay Hazare's tally.

Pujara was eventually run out by Saransh Jain on 133, just before rain put an end to the day's play with West on 292 for nine and leading Central by 384 runs.

The Saurashtra batter was untroubled by the Central bowlers, as he batted for more than six hours to take his side to a virtually unbeatable position.

Pujara and left-arm spinner Saurabh Kumar duelled on throughout, with the right-hander blunting the spinner with his measured defence.

Except for Pujara, most West batters failed to stay put. Overnight batter Sarfaraz Khan was snared by Saurabh in the first over of the day after he edged one to wicketkeeper Upendra Yadav.

Het Patel, who came in next, provided the perfect foil to Pujara, as he hit some crisp boundaries to push West forward. The two added 47 runs before Saransh polished off West's lower middle-order with his quickish off-spin.

Pujara, realising that he was running out of partners, upped the ante, getting to his hundred with a couple of boundaries against Saurabh.

The left-arm spinner soon removed Chintan Gaja to put further pressure on Pujara, who played a few paddle sweeps and lofted shots, including a perfectly-timed six over mid-wicket against Saurabh.

Pujara's long vigil was ended by Saransh while attempting a risky single. Just as the West batter made his way back, the heavens opened up, almost in despondence at his dismissal, bringing day three to an end.

The scores: West Zone — 1st innings: 220.

Central Zone — 1st innings: 128.

West — 2nd innings: Prithvi Shaw b Yash 25, Priyank Panchal b Saurabh 15, Cheteshwar Pujara (run out) Saransh 133, Suryakumar Yadav c Khare b Saurabh 52, Sarfaraz Khan c Upendra b Saurabh 6, Het Patel c Khare b Saransh 27, Atit Sheth lbw b Saransh 9, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja c Rinku b Saransh 9, Chintan Gaja c Jurel b Saurabh 4, Arzan Nagwaswalla (batting) 1; Extras (b-3, lb-1, w-6, nb-1) 11; Total (for nine wkts. in 92 overs): 292.

Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-40, 3-135, 4-150, 5-197, 6-213, 7-245, 8-266, 9-292.

Central Zone bowling: Mavi 10-0-57-0, Avesh 14-2-61-0, Yash 12-3-35-1, Saurabh 28-4-79-4, Saransh 28-10-56-3.

INBRIEF

Verstappen dominates practice at the British GP

Red Bull's Formula One leader Max Verstappen completed a British Grand Prix practice double at Silverstone on Friday. The Dutch double World champion, who produced a best time of one minute 28.078 in practice two after lapping in 1:28.600 in the first, led teammate Sergio Perez one-two in the opening session and was again fastest in the late afternoon when last year's winner Carlos Sainz was second on the timesheets for Ferrari. Williams' Alex Albon was an eye-catching third in both sessions.

India blanks Bangladesh in Asia Junior C'ships opener

India started its campaign at the Badminton Asia Junior Championships with a resounding 5-0 victory over Bangladesh here on Friday. The Indian team will face Hong Kong China and Malaysia on Saturday.

The results: Girls' singles: Tara Shah bt Smrity Rajbongshi 21-2, 21-7; **Boys' singles:** Ayush Shetty bt Sifat Ullah 21-5, 21-9; **Boys' doubles:** Nicholas & Tushar bt Nazmul Islam & Sifat Ullah 21-13, 21-12; **Girls' doubles:** Taneesha & Karnika bt Jesmin Kona & Mathena Biswas 21-8, 21-15; **Mixed doubles:** Samarveer & Radhika bt Nazmul Islam & Smrity Rajbongshi 21-12, 21-10.

Chennaiyin FC signs young striker Irfan Yadwad

Chennaiyin FC announced the signing of talented young striker Irfan Yadwad on Friday. The 22-year old joins the two-time ISL champion on a multi-year deal after a productive 2022-23 season at Bengaluru United, where he scored 36 goals in 34 games, said a CFC press release.

Chelsea legend Azpilicueta leaves the club after 11 years

Chelsea's champion player, Cesar Azpilicueta ended his 11-year, trophy-laden spell at the London club and signed a one-year deal with Atletico Madrid on Thursday. The Spanish defender won every major title with Chelsea, including two English Premier Leagues and the Champions League. The 33-year-old made 508 appearances for the club and won nine trophies after signing from Marseille in 2012.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

New challenge: Danu has represented India at under-16, U-17 and U-20 levels. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Vishal Onat hits unbeaten 216 for Vice President's XI

Vishal Onat (216 n.o.) starred for Vice President's XI against Bangalore Zone in the KSCA S.A. Srinivasan Memorial under-23 tournament here.

The scores: President's XI 286 in 51 overs (Rohan Patil 91, Sarvesh Raju 99, N.A. Chinmay 38, S. Chiranth 4/49, N. Rohan 4/34) and 190/7 in 39.3 overs (N.A. Chinmay 102 n.o., Vishal Kothari 39, N. Rohan 4/40) drew with Secretary's XI 285 in 82.3 overs (Lochan Gowda 25, Amod Kaluve 83, U. Karan 91, N.V. Pranav 34, Mohsin Khan 5/58).

Bangalore Zone 408 in 88.3 overs (Prajwal Prakash 33, R. Smaran 169, Aashish Mahesh 75, Hriddhiman Basu 34, Pradyumna Srivatsa 40, Rajvir Wadhwa 5/83) drew with Vice President's XI 409/3 decl. in 81.4 overs (Vishal Onat 216 n.o., Yashwant 106, K.V. Aneesh 43).

Combined Moffusil XI 328/8 in 90 overs (Sudhanwa Kulkarni 47, R.N. Chirag 107, Eshwar Nayak 32, L.R. Kumar 39, A.N. Shreyas 26 n.o., Manvanth Kumar 3/80) drew with Moffusil XI 379/6 in 78 overs (Thippa Reddy 63, Manvanth Kumar 159 n.o., Bheem Rao 51 n.o.).

Bengaluru FC signs Rohit Danu

Bengaluru FC has signed winger Rohit Danu on a three-year deal, the club announced on Friday. The 20-year-old Danu, who most recently turned out for Hyderabad FC, is a product of the AIFF Elite Academy, and has represented India at under-16, U-17 and U-20 levels.

Slew of initiatives for sports in State budget

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

A three per cent reservation for sportspersons in the recruitment of police and forest departments was among the youth empowerment and sports initiatives announced in the State Budget 2023-24 presented by Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday.

Measures will also be taken to recruit Olympic and Paralympic winners to Group-A government posts, and Group-B posts for Asian and Commonwealth winners.

A grant of ₹5 crore will be allocated to establish a sports museum in the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here.

The budget stated that in partnership with the Karnataka Swimming Association, training will be given to talented swimmers in the state to compete in international competitions.

A grant of ₹2 crore will be provided every year for the next five years for this purpose.

A regional basketball training centre here, and a cycling velodrome in Mysuru will be established at a cost of ₹10 crore each.

SNAPSHOT

India wins U-21 women's archery gold

The Indian compound U-21 women claimed another gold in the World youth archery in Limerick.

The results: Recurve: U-18: Men: bronze match: India (Ujjwal Dhama, Goldi Mishra and Agastya Singh) bt Colombia (Daniel Jimenez Serna, Ludwin Caro, Andres Vera) 6-0 (49-47, 50-49, 55-50). **Compound: U-21: Men: bronze match:** India (Priyansh, Prathamesh Jawkar, Kushal Dalal) lost to USA (Sawyer Sullivan, Isaac Sullivan, Nathaniel Wilken) 213-229. **Women: gold match:** India (Avneet Kaur, Parneet Kaur, Pragati) bt Mexico (Adriana Castilo, Maria Regina Jimenez Valdez, Selene Rodriguez) 222-214.